

### Talks depend on Israel — Syria

DAMASCUS (AFP) — A resumption of peace talks with Israel depends on the Jewish state changing its policy to respect the principle of land-for-peace, Syrian Information Minister Mohammad Salman said Sunday. "When the Israeli government changes its hostile attitude towards peace and respects the basis of the peace process ... such as the principle of trading land-for-peace, the way will be open for talks," Mr. Salman said. The minister told Syrian journalists there had been an "increase in tension" in the region after right-wing leader Benjamin Netanyahu took office as Israeli prime minister in June. "A change in government does not exempt states from respecting international norms, as the Israeli cabinet has tried to do since it came to power," he said.

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## Prime minister presents blueprint for economic development and growth

### Kabariti outlines moves aimed at addressing poverty, unemployment, encouraging production and exports and proposed legislation to facilitate capital investment

By Ghaila Alul  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said Sunday that the government was determined to proceed with economic reforms and announced a series of measures the government will adopt to improve the Kingdom's economic performance. The prime minister said the proposed measures would bring about social security to all sectors of society and help the private sector through improving the investment environment and cutting down bureaucratic procedures. He also said that other measures would be taken soon to improve the performance of the Customs Department, encourage exports and help the national industry. "The economic imbalances that prevailed in the past have partly led to lopsided development because, despite the sincere efforts of all, pockets of poverty still prevail and unemployment stands at 15 per cent," he told a gathering of businessmen and industrialists.

But, he added, comprehensive development cannot be achieved overnight. The government had started a comprehensive programme to deal with the problems of poverty and unemployment and reducing their impact on the less-privileged people in the transitional period. The government will soon cancel customs duties on 492 capital imports to help increase in productivity and provide new job opportunities, Mr. Kabariti told the gathering at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources. Through these measures, the prime minister said, "the government aims at building a strong economy so that all people will have a dignified life and be able to participate in the economic and political life of the country. Despite the limited resources which 'put us in front of difficult choices,' rationality and pragmatism in dealing with the problems facing the country is the road to success, he said. Mr. Kabariti said the government was preparing



Abdul Karim Kabariti

several new laws that will help jump-start the economy and lead to high economic productivity and growth whose "tangible benefits" will be felt by all sectors of the society. Mr. Kabariti said the measures aimed at achieving economic reform include: Improving the investment environment through introducing new legislation and amending some of the existing ones. Those measures also include improving the efficiency of production-supporting services such as the banking sector

and simplifying governmental procedures leading to the reduction of cost on the consumer and proceeding with privatisation. A plan, which the prime minister described as a "green lane" for exporters, will be introduced to help Jordanian exporters to boost their competitive edge on the international level. Under the plan, products which will be imported as input to export-oriented industries will be exempted from time-consuming customs inspections, he said. He added that customs on these inputs will be collected based on documents presented by the importers. These products will be cleared immediately upon arrival. "Economic development is very much linked to a progressive and steady growth in Jordanian exports, and the national economy is in great need of such growth," said the prime minister. "By implementing this new plan the cost related to the importation of raw material, machinery and other inputs for products

destined for exports will be reduced, and as such it will increase the competitive edge of our exports," he added. The introduction of "the green lane" plan for exporters will start on Sept. 15, Mr. Kabariti said. The prime minister said that accepting documents of product classification from foreign suppliers will be another step to facilitate procedures for importers to pay customs duties. International companies certified by the government will inspect the imported products in the country of origin or the country of shipping and prepare the necessary documents. "By these steps the government would be removing most of the barriers and procedures hindering the flow of trade," Mr. Kabariti said. Mr. Kabariti said the government will present a number of economic legislation this year. These include: — A competition and anti-monopoly law. A first draft of the law is ready. (Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan with Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda in Amman on Sunday (photo by Yousef Allam)

## Japan and Jordan share 'almost identical views' on peace, regional issues

### King Hussein, Crown Prince and Kabariti hold talks with Japanese foreign minister

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda on Sunday discussed the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations and reviewed means to revitalise the troubled Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. The two countries share "almost identical views" on the issues discussed and believe in the need to advance the peace process on the basis of agreements already reached among the parties concerned, said the Japanese ambassador to Jordan, Takayuki Kimura. Mr. Ikeda paid tribute to the role played by Jordan in Middle East peacemaking and voiced appreciation of the moderation that the Kingdom has consistently displayed throughout the years and its "highly positive and constructive contribution to peace in the region." The Japanese foreign minister, who left for Israel and the Palestinian territories later in the day, was carrying with him "the wise counsel of His Majesty King Hussein to the parties across the River Jordan," said Mr. Kimura. Asked whether Jordanian move to advance the peace process, Mr. Kimura said Japan did not feel it was necessary since "Jordan has already done enough and its policies and approach are well-known." "Mr. Ikeda informed His Majesty of the high regard with which Japan considers his courageous policies and very positive role in advancing the peace process," Mr. Kimura told the Jordan Times. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said King Hussein voiced appreciation of Japan's role in supporting the peace process, through helping regional economies and development projects. The King thanked Japan for its support for Jordan's economy and for its generous contribution to projects in the Kingdom, Petra said. Mr. Ikeda praised King Hussein's efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East region, and voiced his country's readiness to support the Jordanian economy, the agency said. Ambassador Kimura said Mr. Ikeda extended an invitation to King Hussein to visit Japan. A date for the visit will be set later. The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Khalid Madadha and Ambassador Kimura. Prince Hassan held a separate round of talks over lunch with Mr. Ikeda and reviewed issues related to Palestinian refugees as well as Jordan's economic adjustment programme and industrial policy. The Crown Prince said the economic adjustment programme aimed at securing social justice for all categories of people, including the refugees. Prince Hassan stressed the need for continuing the exchange of expertise with Japan, particularly in the areas of food production and light industries. The meeting was attended by Mr. Kabariti and Mr. Kimura. Earlier in the day, Mr. Kabariti and Mr. Ikeda exchanged notes under which the Japanese government will give Jordan a \$7

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## PNA closes 3 offices in Arab East Jerusalem; Weizman to meet Arafat

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian authorities have closed down three East Jerusalem offices which Israel had demanded be closed as a condition for pursuing the peace process, Palestinian officials said Sunday.

The geography department in charge of monitoring Jewish settlement in the territories, the Palestinian youth and sports office and a statistics bureau have been closed on orders from Gaza, the headquarters of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), said a Palestinian official who spoke on condition of anonymity. Israel Radio also reported that the offices were closed down. The Palestinian official said some of the offices' activities were being transferred to areas in the West Bank under Palestinian administrative control. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had insisted that the offices were involved in official business of the PNA in violation of past peace agreements which barred the PNA from operating in East Jerusalem.

When asked about the reported closure of the offices on Sunday, Mr. Netanyahu said: "We have to verify just what is going on." News that the offices had been closed came a day after Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said Israel had agreed to resume political negotiations on a permanent peace settlement by next week. Mr. Netanyahu had also made the closure of the East Jerusalem offices one of his preconditions for pressing ahead with Israel's delayed partial army withdrawal from Hebron, the

last West Bank city still under Israeli occupation. But officials said discussions within the government about the terms of the redeployment were continuing and no announcement on the move appears imminent.

The closed Palestinian youth and sports office operated out of Orient House, the unofficial Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in East Jerusalem, the maps department of the Palestinian geographic centre was set up in a nearby building and the statistics bureau was in Wadi Joz, another East Jerusalem neighbourhood. The Palestinian official said the maps department would shift its operations to Abu Dis, an East Jerusalem suburb under PNA administrative control. Israeli President Ezer Weizman said Sunday that he would meet Mr. Arafat by the end of the year to reassure the Palestinian leader of Israel's commitment to the peace process. "Arafat is the only Palestinian leader who has signed an agreement with us in 100 years, he leads two million people and controls municipalities neighbouring on our territory, it is normal that I meet with him," Mr. Weizman said after discussing his plans with Mr. Netanyahu. "Our meeting will undoubtedly take place in 1996," he told reporters. Mr. Weizman made the announcement only hours after a newspaper said the outspoken president had threatened to meet Mr. Arafat over Mr. Netanyahu's objections. (Continued on page 7)

## Netanyahu 'planning' to meet Palestinian leader before Sept. 10

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will meet Palestinian President Yasser Arafat within two weeks, Israel Radio said on Sunday.

"As of now, President (Ezer) Weizman, Prime Minister Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai will meet within two weeks with Yasser Arafat," Israel Radio said. Israel's state-run television said that Mr. Netanyahu would most likely meet Mr. Arafat before travelling to the United States on Sept. 10. It said the meeting had been agreed upon during talks between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Mahmoud Abbas and Netanyahu adviser Dore Gold. Two leading members of Mr. Netanyahu's Likud Party demanded earlier Sunday that he meet immediately with Mr. Arafat and fulfill Israel's commitment to withdraw from most of Hebron. "It is time to stop playing games," said Likud Member of Parliament Meir Shitrit in a blast at Mr. Netanyahu's reluctance to pursue the Palestinian peace process. "The army should redeploy immediately in Hebron, because if it is possible to make peace (with the Palestinians) we have to do it now," he told Israel public radio. He also called on Mr.

Netanyahu to abandon his refusal to meet Mr. Arafat. "There is no justification for any more postponement. The prime minister should meet him at once, without delay," he said, adding that it was essential to resume negotiations on a final peace settlement with the Palestinians. A second Likud leader and member of the parliamentary foreign affairs committee, Gideon Ezra, also called on Mr. Netanyahu to "show moderation towards the Palestinians so they can fulfill their commitments" under past peace agreements. "It is possible today to make a gesture towards the Palestinians by beginning the redeployment from Hebron and transferring the civil administration building there to the Palestinians," he said. Mr. Ezra joined Israeli opposition and Palestinian leaders in warning that the delay in respecting Israel's commitment on Hebron, today the last West Bank city not under Palestinian control, was fuelling Palestinian public anger, undermining the authority of Mr. Arafat and his autonomy government. "If we take away Arafat's influence (over Palestinian society), he will not be able to fulfill his commitments, notably the battle against terrorism and the repression of Islamic militants," he said. (Continued on page 3)

## 38 more detainees released

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Authorities on Sunday released 38 more people detained after last week's riots in southern Jordan after it was found that they were not involved in the violent rampage against government and private property, police said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra. On Saturday, Information Minister Marwan Muasher said 32 people were released after questioning found that they did not take part in the riots. His Majesty King Hussein has said that only those who are found to have taken direct part in the riots or instigated the unrest would be sent to court and that others who simply participated in demonstrations would be released. The State Security Court is expected to try those suspected of staging violence and instigating the riots. The precise number of those detained after the two days of riots in Karak and several other towns was not available. Earlier reports put their number at 190, meaning that with the releases on Saturday and Sunday, those remaining in detention could be less than 130. Informed sources said meanwhile that Majali, head of the Ansar Party, a left-of-centre party, and resident of Karak was released after three days of detention. Among those remaining in detention include between 45 and 50 members of leftist political parties, (Continued on page 3)

## Prince Talal is appointed head of National Security Council

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued Sunday appointing His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad as director of the National Security Council (NSC) at the Royal Court as of Sunday Aug. 25, 1996.

Prince Talal has served as His Majesty King Hussein's military secretary for the past five and half years. Prince Talal replaces retired Major General Mustafa Qaisi, the former head of the General Intelligence Department, who resigned from his post as director of the NSC and advisor to the King. In a letter to Gen. Qaisi, the King voiced appreciation of his efforts and services in the different posts he had assumed and described him as an example of loyalty and dedication to the nation's service. "As you have requested to retire I hereby accept your request and reaffirm my confidence in you and my gratitude for your service to the nation, which I and your colleagues will continue to remember," said the King. In his letter of resignation, Gen. Qaisi said he was honoured to serve



HRH Prince Talal

under the King's leadership all these years and took pride in his confidence and directives and guidance. "Having served for 38 years under the Hashemite leadership I request to be relieved of my duties for health reasons but I declare that I will continue to serve as a soldier under the Hashemite Throne throughout the remaining years of my life," said Gen. Qaisi. Gen. Qaisi noted in his letter of resignation that the NSC has gone a long way towards establishing itself as an institution. "Positive steps have been taken towards institutionalising the NSC in terms of a general framework of its functions and its infrastructure of qualified cadres and has become ready, for assuming the task which you have directed it to carry out," he wrote in his resignation letter.



## Hekmatyar base falls to Taleban

KABUL (AFP) — The Afghan government Sunday confirmed the fall of a strategic base controlled by Premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami faction to the rival Taleban militia.

"Spena Shiga base fell late Friday afternoon without much resistance," said an official announcement released by a spokesman for the prime minister.

The announcement said the base, located in Pakia province near the Pakistani border, fell because it was only defended by units of "local Mujahideen" belonging to Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami faction, not the premier's main fighting force.

Top military and political leaders met here Sunday in an "extraordinary" meeting to discuss the capture of the base by Taleban, the spokesman said.

The meeting was attended by Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his military strongman Ahmad Shah Masood. Mr. Hekmatyar and his Defence Minister Wahidullah Sabawoon, together with ally Rasool Sayyaf, leader of Itihad-e-Islami faction.

Spena Shiga, which means "white gravel", was developed by Mr. Hekmatyar as a base for fighting against the former Soviet Red Army during their 10-year occupation of Afghanistan.

The announcement claimed the Taleban had "failed" to seize significant amounts of munitions as these supplies had already been transferred to other depots.

"The Taleban suffered huge casualties, which are not equal to the value of the area they have gained," the announcement said, without giving figures.

A Hezb-e-Islami press spokesman said although the Taleban were inside the Spena Shiga base, "we control the high-grounds around it, where fighting is still going on".

Spena Shiga has a strategic importance because a motorable road connects it to the Hezb-e-Islami controlled district centre of Sarobi.

Sarobi, located 50 kilometres east of Kabul on the main national highway leading to the Pakistan border, is the site of two major hydroelectric dams which are expected to start supplying the capital with electricity soon.

It also has strategic value because it controls access to the Tagob Valley which runs north and eventually opens onto plains where Mr. Masood's Bagram military airbase is situated.

"The Taleban want to take Sarobi in order to reach Bagram via Tagob," a Hezb-e-Islami official said. Having failed to capture Kabul after two major offensives, the Taleban are now applying gradual pressure toward the capital in an attempt to strangle it of all lines of support, analysts said.

Bagram, located about 50 kilometres north of Kabul, is used by both the civilian Ariana Afghan Airlines and jet fighters of the pro-Kabul air force.

Mr. Hekmatyar's spokesman said that before the Taleban could get to Sarobi, they must first defeat the Hezb-e-Islami Mujahideen based north of Spena Shiga in the Logar province district centre of Azra.

He doubted there was a serious Taleban military threat to the eastern provincial capital Jalalabad, saying the religious movement fighters would not be able to maintain such an "outstretched front".

Taleban militia, which sprang up from Koranic schools in November 1994, controls half of Afghanistan. It has been besieging Kabul for the past nine months in a bid to topple Mr. Rabbani and enforce Islamic law throughout the country.



CLEAN UP GAZA: French volunteers from an organisation called San Modality paint a wall with motifs of Palestinian women, a mosque and urban buildings in Gaza City, as part of a clean up campaign Sunday. Some 20 French students from universities throughout France are in the Gaza Strip helping in cleaning the streets and sprucing up the city (Reuters photo)

## Archaeological find may shed new light on mummification

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian-American team has discovered 3,900-year-old materials used in the mummification of ancient Egyptians which they hope will shed new light on the process.

Mohammed Salah, head of the Egyptian museum, said Sunday archaeologists have found such materials before but that these were the oldest ever discovered.

"We will study the materials and we hope this will teach us more about the mummification process," Mr. Salah told the Associated Press.

He did not give details on what materials were found.

Ancient Egyptians believed that spirits return to their bodies in an afterlife. Mummification was meant to ensure that the spirit would recognise its body.

They perfected the art of mummification, but the secret of exactly how to do it died with them. A number of scientists have worked to try to replicate the process.

The ancient embalmers are known to have used a combination of materials including linen, resins, sawdust and natron, a hydrated sodium carbonate found in Egypt.

The newly discovered materials were found by Egyptian experts and an American team from New York's Metropolitan Museum, Mr. Salah said.

They were in one of four decorative jars found several months ago at Dahshour, 35 kilometres south of Cairo. Such jars normally are used to store the dead person's organs, and it was not clear why one was filled with unused embalming material, Mr. Salah said.

Mr. Salah said the jars will be exhibited at the museum. Dahshour is home to a number of pyramids, temples and tombs of ancient Egyptians. The site is scheduled to be opened to the public later this year.

## New U.S. ambassador due in Riyadh soon

DUBAI (R) — Washington's new ambassador to Saudi Arabia is due in Riyadh shortly to fill a vacuum in what has become one of the most sensitive U.S. diplomatic posts.

There has been no U.S. ambassador in the kingdom since April when Raymond Mabius returned home. Before the arrival of Mr. Mabius, who was close to President Bill Clinton, he lacked foreign policy experience, the Riyadh post had been empty between August 1992 and July 1994.

His successor is another political appointee — Wyche Fowler, formerly a Georgia Democrat in the Senate, who was appointed two weeks ago, when Mr. Clinton invoked special powers because the Senate dabbled in confirming his nomination.

"He's due in the next few days," a U.S. embassy spokesman said by telephone from the Saudi capital.

Saudi Arabia places much emphasis in its dealings with its main ally on close personal contact, especially the relationship between the representative in Riyadh and the White House.

Time was when a posting to the world's richest oil power meant little more than splendid isolation in a closed compound in the capital's Safarat diplomatic quarter. Now the American embassy and 5,000 U.S. armed forces personnel are potential targets of what the White House calls an international terrorist campaign against the United States.

Two bomb attacks have killed 24 Americans and two Indians and wounded nearly 500 in Saudi Arabia since last November.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Kuwaiti prisoners on hunger strike

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Hundreds of prisoners in a Kuwaiti jail have gone on hunger strike in protest at their poor living conditions, newspapers said on Sunday. The reports said that up to 1,487 prisoners in the central prison in Sulabiya, a few kilometres southwest of Kuwait city, began their hunger strike on Saturday complaining of poor food and rough treatment by prison officers. The inmates were also protesting new visiting arrangements. Visitors and prisoners are now separated by fences following the escape of a Pakistani prisoner during a recent visiting time, the papers said. The interior ministry was unavailable for comment. The newspaper reports were based on a spokesperson for the prisoners and unidentified sources. An unsolicited caller to AFP on Saturday, claiming to be an inmate telephoning from inside the prison, said the protest would "continue for more days" until the authorities took action. "Our families, when they visit us, they visit us behind two fences," said the prisoner, who asked not to be named. He said the striking prisoners included Kuwaitis and other nationalities who are convicted of a range of crimes. There have been several hunger strikes in Kuwaiti jails in recent months in protest at poor conditions, including at the central prison and the Talha deportation centre.

### Peres on private visit to Morocco

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres left Sunday for a private visit to Morocco, during which he is scheduled to meet with King Hassan II. "I am going on vacation with my son and the king said he would be happy to receive me," Mr. Peres told Israeli radio before leaving. "We have already met dozens of times and have developed a friendship," he said. Mr. Peres, Israel's main opposition leader since he was narrowly defeated by Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu in May prime ministerial elections, was accompanied by his wife Sonya and Labour Party Deputy Rafi Edri, who played a key role in Israel's rapprochement with Morocco under the previous government. Mr. Peres defended his visit to Morocco as "normal in a democracy." "Everywhere in the world, opposition deputies travel to meet with foreign leaders," he said. "I am not the prime minister and so don't carry out official negotiations, but I will fight with all legal means to promote the peace process." Mr. Netanyahu criticised Mr. Peres for meeting last week with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, whom the right-wing prime minister has so far refused to meet.

### Iranian defence minister to visit China

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian Defence Minister Mohammad Fuzurandeh will start an official visit to Beijing on Monday, said the official Iranian news agency, IRNA on Sunday. The agency said Mr. Fuzurandeh will head a large delegation comprising senior officials from the Iranian armed forces on the visit, due to last several days. The visit is being made at the invitation of the Chinese defence minister, said IRNA. China was Iran's main arms supplier during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war and is still suspected by Western powers of providing Tehran with sophisticated weaponry, including long-range missiles. China has always robustly defended its cooperation with Iran, and the United States has failed in its attempts to stop Beijing selling nuclear technology to the Islamic Republic.

### Canadian businessmen seek Iraq deals

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Canadian businessmen began talks with Iraqi officials here on Sunday as they sought deals for when Iraq resumes limited oil sales under an agreement with the United Nations. Iraqi economic sources said. The 14-member delegation met Commerce Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh on Sunday to discuss "prospects for cooperation" under the May 20 oil-for-food agreement, they said. The businessmen also met the president of the Union of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Zuhair Abdel Ghafur. Delegations from several countries have visited Baghdad since Iraq signed the deal to export two billion dollars of oil every six months in return for food and medicine under strict international controls. The deal is expected to be implemented in September. Health Minister Umid Medhat Mubarak inaugurated a trade exhibition for Turkish pharmaceutical and medical products, during a visit here by a 56-member Turkish delegation. Baghdad says the U.N. trade and oil sanctions imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait have deprived it of funds to buy food and medicine, even though humanitarian supplies are exempt from the embargo.

## Ecologists rail as work starts on lakeside homes for Saudi royals in Geneva

GENEVA (AFP) — Work has begun in woods adjoining the palace of Saudi King Fahd here to build a complex of lavish mansions for members of his entourage, despite frantic efforts by local ecologists to stop the scheme.

The controversial project has been the object of a bitter legal battle for more than a year, ever since the king was given permission in April 1995 to build the villas, each covering 700 square metres and connected by underground tunnels wide enough for the royal limousines.

The first trees have already been uprooted and Swiss entrepreneur Jean Jacques Jaquet said he "wanted to finish the work before the winter".

The king's immediate neighbour, Geneva lawyer Bernard Ziegler said the courts had still to rule on several appeals by opponents of the project. He called on the local authorities to order an "immediate halt to the work", which he protested had been allowed to go ahead during the summer break.

The problem is that the local government is still on holiday and, what is more its members include the king's architect and his lawyer. King Fahd has never spent a single night in the palace he built 12 years ago on the shores of Lake Geneva.

Although it has many reception rooms and has been expanded with an extra floor, it is still too small for the king's large entourage.

In their fight to stop the scheme, neighbours and nature lovers invoked the terms of the last will and testament of the former owner of the land, an Alsatian ecologist who died in 1977 aged 91 after living for years in a dilapidated old house with 30 cats. On his death, he left the 12 hectares of woods to the local animal welfare society (SPA), on the express condition "that nothing be built there for 80 years."

On the assumption that the forest was not suitable for building, the SPA auctioned the land which was bought for six million Swiss francs by a lawyer acting for Anne Marie Latsis, the daughter of a Greek businessman close to King Fahd. Local people first became concerned on learning that Ms. Latsis was prepared to rent or concede her land to her neighbour King Fahd so he could provide fitting accommodation for his relatives and courtiers. The authorities agreed in April 1995 to grant a permit to build on the land. They said that though under the terms of the land sale, Ms. Latsis was "legally bound to consider the property as a forest" the local government considered that "this does not prevent the construction of the villas."

A Geneva government official denied that King Fahd had benefited from a special favour and said the Saudi king "is being treated like any other citizen." The assertion failed to convince the locals.

The press which is closely following the efforts of local officials to satisfy both the local "greens" and the Saudi leader, has reported that to compensate for the woodland to be destroyed, the Saudis had promised to plant new trees on five hectares of land they owned in Geneva and to "rehabilitate" a stream popular with local residents.

King Fahd has also donated \$140,000 to the Canton forestry fund, through the SGF

Ingénierie, the company which won the \$30 million contract to build the villas. SGF Ingénierie just happens to be owned by the father of Ms. Latsis, who has kept part of the land to be used for building in her own name.

Ownership of the 33 hectares concerned is thus split among the king, the Saudi kingdom and Ms. Latsis. The Tribune de Genève newspaper said Ms. Latsis had acted as a "front" for the Saudis in the affair. It said partitioning the domain would enable those behind the project to evade very restrictive federal laws on forest clearance.

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### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

15:05.....Adventure On The Rainbow Pond  
15:25.....Richie Rich  
15:40.....Playabout  
16:00.....Gillene World Sport  
16:30.....Hey Dad  
17:00.....News Flash  
17:02.....Sciences Cartoon  
17:15.....La Vie Devant Moi  
17:30.....Game Show — Pyramid  
18:00.....Magazine — La Marche Du Siecle/Part Two  
19:00.....Le Journal  
19:15.....Magazine — Cinq Sur Cinq  
19:30.....News Headlines  
19:33.....Doc. — Caymanias  
20:20.....The Lazarus Man  
22:00.....News in English  
22:25.....The Bold and the Beautiful  
23:10.....Bodies of Evidence

### PRAYER TIMES

04:12.....Fajr  
05:42.....(Sunrise) Dhuha  
12:42.....Dhuhr  
16:23.....Asr  
19:42.....Maghreb  
21:12.....Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740

### Assemblies of God Church Tel.

632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking

Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with temperatures slightly below average and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm. Min/Max. temp.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman.....18/31  
Aqaba.....23/38  
Deserts.....17/25  
Jordan Valley.....22/27  
Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 33, Aqaba 39 Humidity readings: Amman 33 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mukhlis Halasah 819220

Dr. Ghazi Abu Shikhuah 752405

Dr. Ruhl Sukkar.....856457

Dr. Yousef Al Faqih.....790104

Ferdows pharmacy.....778336

Al Asema pharmacy.....637055

Nairoukh pharmacy.....623672

Al Salam pharmacy.....636730

Yacoub pharmacy.....644945

Shmeisani pharmacy.....637660

Nairoukh pharmacy.....847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qam.....281484

Al Quds pharmacy.....(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Issa Al Omari.....901266

Khalifeh pharmacy.....985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....637111

Civil Defence Department.....661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue.....630341

Shmeisani Hospital.....669131

University Hospital.....845845

Al-Muasher Hospital.....6672279

The Islamic, Abdali.....66612637

Al-Ahli, Abdali.....6641646

Italian, Al-Muhajreen.....7771013

Al-Bashir.....7751126

Highway Police.....843402

Traffic Police.....896390

Public Security Dept.....630321

Hotel Complaints.....605800

Price Complaints.....661176

Water & Sewerage Complaints.....897467

Amman Municipality Complaints.....787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance).....121

Overseas Calls.....010230

Central Amman Telephone

Reparis.....623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs.....661101

Jordan Television.....773111

Radio Jordan.....774111

Water Authority.....680100

J. Electricity Authority.....815615

Electric Power Co.....636381

RJ Flight Information.....08-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

Malhas, J. Amman.....636140

Palestine, Shmeisani.....607071

Shmeisani Hospital.....669131

University Hospital.....845845

Al-Muasher Hospital.....6672279

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J. Electricity Authority.....815615

Electric Power Co.....636381

RJ Flight Information.....08-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

This information is supplied by

Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

department at the Queen

Alia International Airport Tel.

(08)53200-5, where it should

always be verified.

Information on other flights

are supplied on phone 08

(527001).

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

08:15.....Sanaa (RJ)

09:00.....Damascus (RJ)

09:30.....Jeddah (RJ)

10:10.....Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:20.....Beirut (RJ)

10:30.....New Delhi (RJ)

15:00.....London (RJ)

17:20.....Cairo (RJ)

17:45.....New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

19:00.....Bangkok (RJ)

23:25.....Casablanca (RJ)

03:35 Fukuoka, Bangkok (add)

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# Home News

## Jordan, Egypt discuss future of relations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nayef Qadi, Jordan's ambassador to Egypt and representative to the Cairo-based Arab League, Sunday reported to a parliamentary committee regarding relations between Jordan and Egypt stressing that the two countries hold similar views concerning issues of significance to the Arab nation.

Mr. Qadi told the Arab and International Affairs Committee at the Lower House of Parliament that Jordan and Egypt agree on such substantive issues as: the question of a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict in the region, the support of Palestinian leadership as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the impetus to re-establish solidarity among Arab states.

The ambassador reviewed various issues facing the Arab League as well as relations between Jordan and Egypt, committee chairman Fawzi Toumeih said.

Dr. Toumeih quoted the ambassador as maintaining that "the Egyptian government is convinced that any international sanctions against Sudan would further harm that country while also damaging Egyptian interests and therefore Cairo is invested with halting measures against Khartoum."

Sudan is facing a UN Security Council air

embargo for failing to extradite three men suspected of attempting to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in June of last year.

The U.N. Security Council is discussing the possible suspension of all Sudan Airways international flights beginning in September unless the alleged militants are handed over to Egyptian authorities to stand trial.

In May of last year, the U.N. Council imposed diplomatic sanctions against Khartoum and threatened further measures should the Sudanese authorities fail to comply with its demands.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Action Front (IAF) Sunday issued a statement condemning the Security Council resolutions and criticised the Egyptian government for failing to end its differences with Sudan without the intervention of the U.N.

Sudan repeatedly denounced the assassination attempt and claimed willingness to cooperate with the Egyptian government in the capture of the wanted men, said the statement.

The IAF accused the U.S. of instituting the embargo to perpetuate animosity among Arab countries and as a reprisal against Sudan for adopting Islamic rule.

## Japan grants \$7m to reconstruct bridge

By P.V.Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan on Sunday granted Japan \$7 million to reconstruct a bridge across the River Jordan connecting the Kingdom with Israel and also promised to consider a Jordanian request for assistance to its education and water sectors as well as broader help to the Kingdom's balance of payments.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda and Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti exchanged notes for the 771 million yen (around \$7 million) grant during a meeting they held Sunday morning.

The grant will be used to reconstruct the Sheikh Hussein bridge, the northern crossing point between Jordan and Israel, as well as access roads and terminal facilities.

Ken Shimanouchi, official spokesman for the Japanese foreign minister, told a press briefing that the grant will help build a four-lane bridge and all related terminal facilities "with the view to meeting an anticipated increase in traffic."

Mr. Shimanouchi said Japan's aim was to "make the dividends of peace obvious to all, in order to facilitate peace."

On the bilateral level, the spokesman said, Japan sought "to build political, economic, social and cultural relations" with Jordan.

Mr. Ikeda was briefed on Jordan's economic policies and fiscal measures as well as development efforts in various sectors by the concerned ministers during the meeting with Mr. Kabariti at the Prime Ministry.

In the human resources sector, Mr. Ikeda promised Japanese assistance to help Jordan build schools but did not make an immediate commitment in figures, according to sources.

Jordan has requested \$60 million in Japanese aid for the second phase of the human resources development project and discussions are under way at experts level.

Also discussed was Japanese aid to help Jordan improve its water supply networks and Mr. Ikeda also indicated that assistance would be forthcoming in this fiscal year.

The amount of assistance is expected to be around \$15 million.

The two sides also discussed plans to rebuild the King Hussein Bridge which connects Jordan to the West Bank.

The Japanese side said any assistance from Tokyo for this project would have to wait until Israel and the Palestinians reach a final peace agreement under which the status of the West Bank is firmly established.



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Sunday welcomes Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda at the Prime Ministry (photo by Yousef Al Allan)

Mr. Ikeda also said his country would favourably consider extending further aid to Jordan to help the Kingdom's balance of payments.

Spokesman Shimanouchi said such assistance referred to the role that Japan played during a donors' meeting held in July last month which produced pledges of financial assistance to the Kingdom's balance of payments.

The prime minister also reaffirmed Jordan's determination to adhere to the economic restructuring programme agreed with the IMF.

Mr. Ikeda praised Jordan's economic performance and the government's determination to restructure the national economy on solid and strong bases, to ensure a steady economic growth.

Also reviewed during Sunday's meeting at the Prime Ministry was the progress of Japanese-financed projects in the transport and water sector.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by ministers of housing and public works, water and irrigation, planning, finance, and minister of state for foreign affairs.

On the Japanese side, the meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying Mr. Ikeda and the Japanese ambassador to Jordan, Takayuki Kimura.

Japan is the largest per capita contributor of aid to Jordan, having given the Kingdom \$33 million in outright grants for the fiscal year ending March 1996.

Tokyo also provided about \$340 million to Jordan during the same year, including the \$215 million to help the Kingdom's balance of payments and \$100 million to finance a thermal power station at the Red Sea port of Aqaba.

## Government to crack down on visa overstays

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Interior Awad Khleifat Sunday said that authorities will immediately enforce existing laws and regulations concerning visitors and guest workers in the Kingdom.

He said that he will follow recommendations made to the government by a special ministerial committee dealing with foreigners' hiatus in the country.

Dr. Khleifat remarked that visitors to Jordan more often than not fail to heed the length of stay as determined by their respective visas adding that some change places of residence without informing designated authorities of their new locations.

Following said committee recommendations the government is now demanding that foreign visitors, with the exception of tourists and travellers in transit, upon arrival to the Kingdom inform border officers and if a subsequent change of residence occurs register such with the appropriate police departments within 48 hours, according to Dr. Khleifat who is also the ministerial committee chairman.

Any foreign visitor to Jordan wishing to stay longer than the two-week permit granted on arrival should submit a formal request to the local police stations, said the minister.

Minister of Labour Abdul Hafez Shakhaneh Sunday said that guest workers, estimated at 300,000, should strictly abide by the recent regulations and must acquire work permits prior to arriving in the country, as well as report their place



Awad Khleifat

of residence when they begin work.

According to a 1973 law landlowners, hotels, companies and any other institution should report to local police, the employment or residence of any visitor from another country within 48 hours.

Dr. Shakhaneh spoke at a meeting with directors of employment and labour departments in the various governorates urging them to strictly implement these regulations.

The Minister of Interior said on Aug. 7 that the government intends to raise the annual fees for foreign work permits from JD 100 to JD 150 for Arab labourers and from JD 300 to JD 400 for non-Arab workers.

Dr. Khleifat on Sunday stressed that strict measures will be taken against violators of this law including possible expulsion with no right to re-entry.

Earlier this month, Dr. Khleifat was quoted as saying that out of the 300,000 foreign workers nearly 30,000 are unemployed but continue to reside in the country.

## Yarmouk, Arab Banking Academy finalise contract

IRBID (J.T.) — Yarmouk University and the Arab Academy for Banking and Financial Studies Sunday signed a scientific and technical agreement designed to provide Jordanian and other Arab labour markets with human resource expertise in financial affairs.

The agreement provides for the two institutions to exchange teaching staff and lecturers, conduct joint studies and allow trainees from both institutions to attend one another's lectures.

In a statement to Jordan Television, Yarmouk University President Marwan Kamal who signed the deal, said that among other things the agreement provides for the Amman, based academy to provide seats for Yarmouk University's post-graduate students to study at the academy to obtain degrees.

He said that the agreement would contribute to the country's socio-economic development in general and the banking and financial sector in particular.

Academy President Mustafa Hudeib signed the agreement saying that the academy hopes to benefit from Yarmouk University's proficiency in the exchange.

Yarmouk University has now signed 75 scientific agreements with Arab and foreign institutions for scientific exchanges.

## 38 more detainees released

(Continued from page 1)

prominent among them the pro-Iraq Arab Baath Socialist Party and the Jordan People's Democratic Party, which says at least 15 of its members have been arrested from various parts of the Kingdom.

Jordan has said that it had signed confessions that "some official parties in Iraq" were behind the unrest in the south on Aug. 16 and 17 following the increase in the price of bread.

Security officials have

refused to reveal details of those arrested except that "all those found not to have taken part in violence will be released."

Among those held are five journalists, Fuad Hussein of Al Awsaq daily newspaper and Al Bilad weekly publisher Nayef Tawara, on as yet unspecified charges, and Al Bilad chief editor Khaled Khasasbeh and reporters Taha Abu Reden and Rakan Saideh, charges against whom range from violating the Press and Publication Law and the Penal Code.

## Netanyahu 'planning' to meet Palestinian leader

(Continued from page 1)

Yossi Sarid, a former minister and head of the left-wing Meretz Party, announced earlier Sunday that he had obtained the 30 votes in parliament needed to call a special session to debate the government's policy on Hebron.

Mr. Sarid said he would seek a vote of no-confidence against Mr. Netanyahu if he does not follow through with the redeployment.

Mr. Netanyahu's right-wing coalition has a 66-seat majority in the 120-member Knesset, Israel's legislature.

## Science week to probe global, human resources

By Marian Nimry  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The fourth annual Jordanian Science Week kicks off Tuesday with a serious look at "Man and the Earth."

The Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) in cooperation with the Jordan Armed Forces will host the science week between Aug. 27 and Sept. 3.

The event will focus on applications of global resource research projects, financed through the council during the period of 1996-2000, in terms of their potential economic implications and human resource requirements.

According to Khaled Shreideh, HCST assistant secretary-general for scientific and technical affairs, the annual science weeks are organised to work as a continuum with each other.

At a press conference yesterday, Nancy Bakeer, HCST assistant secretary-general, went on to emphasise the importance of research and development as "decisions based on solid hypotheses may have a small margin of error, while decisions based on faulty hypotheses are more likely to contain a large margin of error."

The science week will be convened in two stages.

The first three days starting on Aug. 27 will be held at the Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid under the title "Human Resources Towards Balance." It will discuss five studies and four scientific papers pertaining to human resources.

Some of the subjects dealt with in these papers are unemployment, training capabilities in the Jordanian Armed Forces, and the role of institutions in training and rehabilitating manpower.

Buses provided by the Armed Forces will pick up passengers at the Royal Cultural Centre and transport them to the university

at 8 a.m. Wednesday Aug. 27.

The second stage will be held from Aug. 31-Sept. 3 at the Royal Cultural Centre under the title "Earth Resources Towards Integration." It will discuss eleven research projects financed by the HCST, over the implementation period 1996-2000, in terms of their objectives, methodologies, plan of implementation, progress and expected outcomes.

The projects deal with issues in the fields of mineral resources, water, energy, and environment.

"We, at the council, fund the research to solve problems. Once a piece of

research is done we convene a specialised seminar for all concerned parties that are involved from the scientific and technological communities," said Dr. Shreideh.

"We have now, through the last few years, found that the best way for a concentrated research effort is through group research," continued Dr. Shreideh. "If you apply to the council with a project as an individual, you will be rejected and when you present it to us as a group of researchers and organisations, you will be accorded top priority."

The week will be inaugurated by HRH Crown Prince Hassan.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Saudi group to discuss agricultural exports

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-member Saudi technical team Tuesday will arrive on a several day visit for talks with officials regarding agricultural exports to Saudi Arabia. The Saudi team will discuss controls and measures to ensure that exported products are free from contaminants.

### Scientific Dental Day to include 287 dentists

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Aref Bataineh will inaugurate the first Scientific Dental Day on Thursday, Aug. 29, organised by the Ministry of Health. The day includes scientific lectures from medical experts in both public and private practice. A total of 287 dentists working in 211 dental clinics all over the Kingdom will participate.

### Development Fund provides JD 1,788,413

AMMAN (Petra) — The Development and Employment Fund (DEF) has provided JD 1,788,413 worth of loans during the first 7 months of this year to finance 318 projects directed toward providing 714 jobs, according to DEF Director General Ali Jaddou 'Qubaa'ah. The service sector gained the lion's share with 53.8 per cent of the total loans, followed by the industrial sector with 33.1 per cent.

### University acceptees to be announced today

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Jordan Vice President for Administrative Affairs Walid Maani, who heads the university admission office, will hold a press conference today during which he will announce the names of admittees to various universities, including the Universities of Jordan, Yarmouk, Mutah, Science and Technology, Al Hashemieh and Al al Bait.

### Jordan-Bahrain Committee to discuss economy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan-Bahrain Committee will meet Sept. 6 in Manama with ministers there. The three-day conference will be preceded by a preparatory encounter of experts in the field. The meeting will cover cooperation in the economic and commercial fields. Jordan and Bahrain signed a trade agreement in 1994.

### A drop of blood means life

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Rotary Club is organising a blood donation campaign, in cooperation with other Rotary Clubs in Jordan Aug. 27. The campaign will use as its theme: "A drop of blood means life".

## WHAT'S GOING ON

- FOLKLORE DANCES**  
\* Folklore dances by the Circassian Folkloric Troupe at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- POETRY RECITAL**  
\* Recital of poems by Syrian poet Khalid Abu Khalid at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.
- AL AZRAQ FESTIVAL**  
\* Performance by the Jordanian Armed Forces Musical Band.  
\* Poetry recitals by Salman Al Shomari and Suleiman Oweis.  
\* Performances by Al Azraq and Taffieh bands of Popular Art.  
\* Book, handicraft, and plastic art exhibitions.
- EXHIBITIONS**  
\* Works by artist Abeer Abu Joudih at Alla Art Gallery, Jabal Amman, until Sept. 5.  
\* Abstract (plastic) art by Lina Hifari entitled "Relationship Between Man and Nature" at the Housing Bank complex gallery, until Aug. 31.  
\* Abstract (plastic) art by Jordanian artist Khalil Al Kofahi entitled "From Jordan... Man and Charming Nature" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Aug. 29.  
\* "Summer '96" exhibition at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Oct. 8.



# Lebed to consult Moscow on Chechen peace agreement

NOVYE ATAGI, Russia (R) — Russian security supremo Alexander Lebed suddenly suspended talks with Chechen rebels Sunday and returned to Moscow for further consultations on a deal to end the 20-month old conflict.

Comments by Chechen spokesman Movladi Udogov suggested the two sides could be close to an agreement to bridge the gap between them on the key issue of Chechnya's status.

The talks, due to take place in the village of Novye Atagi with Chechen Chief-of-Staff Aslan Maskhadov, were delayed amid charges by the Russian military that Chechen rebels had violated a ceasefire agreement by seizing arms from Russian troops.

But Gen. Lebed said the delay was to allow him to seek legal advice and the authority of the Russian leadership before he could sign a political deal tackling the tricky issue of the future status of the rebel region.

Russian troops began pulling out from southern Chechnya Sunday under the ceasefire agreement, agreed Thursday by Gen. Lebed and Commander Maskhadov after some of the heaviest fighting in more than a year.

But in the capital Grozny, the commander of Russian Interior Ministry Forces in Chechnya, General Anatoly Shkirkov, told Interfax News Agency he was delaying a pullout of troops there

because of the seizure of weapons from an armoured column.

Gen. Lebed told reporters before leaving for Moscow from the Russian base of Khankala near Grozny that he would discuss suggestions put forward by the rebels Saturday with President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

"I hope that the president will approve of my activities. I will return to the Chechen Republic to continue the negotiations with documents, impeccable from the legal point of view, in my hands," he said.

Chechen spokesman Udogov, speaking in Novye Atagi, 20 kilometres south of Grozny, said he was not too worried by Gen. Lebed's sudden departure.

"Lebed told the Chechen side yesterday that he needed to check a few details so that the agreement would not be attacked by the 'party of war'," Mr. Udogov said, referring to a mysterious group of unnamed hardliners blamed for the collapse of earlier peace efforts.

He told reporters Gen. Lebed had told them he had the authority to sign a deal, but agreed legal problems could have come up.

"Lebed's draft was not fully worked out yesterday. Some points need more correct legal formulations," he said.

Mr. Udogov said the issue of Chechnya's status would be resolved by a referendum, but it was not clear when it would take place or whether Gen. Lebed had agreed to this. Russia's constitution would have to be altered to change Chechnya's status.

"The question of status has been talked over a long time ago. It's a question of the principal of putting off the solution of the question," Mr. Udogov said.

"The issue of status will be decided in a referendum, by the free will of the Chechen people," he added.

Gen. Lebed was earlier quoted by ITAR-TASS news agency as saying that suggestions put forward by the separatists during talks Saturday needed to be looked at by experts in international law.

He did not give any details, the agency added.

Gen. Lebed and Commander Maskhadov have both said a compromise can be found between the rebels' demand for independence and Moscow's insistence the region remains within the Russian Federation.

Mr. Udogov said after talks Saturday that the two sides were close to a deal.

Sunday's meeting between Gen. Lebed and Commander Maskhadov was due to have begun at 10 a.m. (0600 GMT). It faced a last-minute hitch after the Russian military accused the rebels of seizing and disarming a Russian Interior Ministry armoured column in the Chechen capital, Grozny.

Mr. Udogov said at first that the delay was because Gen. Lebed was getting advice by telephone from "the highest leadership" Moscow, implying that he had been talking to Mr. Yeltsin.

But he later confirmed the seizure, saying it was carried out by a renegade group. "This group does not belong to the armed forces of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria," he said.

The commander of Russian forces in Chechnya, Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, demanded that the separatist leadership return the weapons without delay, Interfax News Agency said.

Mr. Udogov later said all the weapons had been returned and that some members of the group which seized them had been arrested by the rebels.

"The Chechen side apologised officially to the Russian side and expressed the hope that provocations will not become a reason for the negotiations to be suspended," he said.

Interfax earlier quoted a representative of the federal forces as saying that the incident could upset the peace talks.

"If the separatist leadership does not fulfil the demands for the return of the seized weapons by the end of the day, it could seriously complicate Security Council Secretary A. Lebed's mission to find peaceful resolution of the Chechen conflict."



Chechen separatist chief of staff Aslan Maskhadov (left) and Russian army Major General Vyacheslav Ovchinnikov (right) address their troops during a ceremony outside Starye Atagi to allocate joint patrol groups to guard the regional capital Grozny. Russian troops and Chechen rebels are due to leave Grozny before the end of August (Renter photo)

## Police inspector reportedly held in Belgian child sex scandal

BRUSSELS (AFP) — A police inspector has been held for questioning in the investigation into the kidnapping and sexual abuse of Belgian children by child rapist Marc Dutroux, two Belgian television channels reported Sunday.

He may be charged in connection with the scandal being uncovered after Mr. Dutroux's arrest on Aug. 13 and the subsequent release of two girls incarcerated in one of his houses in a suburb of the southern town of Charleroi, said RTL-TV.

The bodies of two other girls were later dug up from the garden of the same house in Marcinelle. Eight-year-olds Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo who were kidnapped from their home town of Liege in June 1995 starved to death while Mr. Dutroux was in prison for theft, after suffering nine months of sexual abuse.

State television, RTBF said the inspector may be being questioned amid growing

accusations that Mr. Dutroux was only able to escape arrest for so long because he had some kind of police protection.

Despite his previous convictions for paedophilia, he seemed to pass relatively unnoticed by police after his early release from prison in 1992 even though children continued to disappear.

Mr. Dutroux himself underwent a long interrogation overnight Saturday, the television said.

During his questioning he was confronted with Michael Diakostavanos, one of the other five suspects under arrest which include Mr. Dutroux's wife.

Two teenagers, An Marcbal, 17, and Eefje Lamhrechts, 19, are still missing and police have widened their investigations to search for them among a suspected Eastern European child sex network.

Meanwhile, the parents of Lejeune and Russo distanced themselves from

hids by various groups to capitalise on the nation's outrage.

The move came after one Belgian organisation used the girls' names on a petition calling for paedophiles to be given non-commutable jail sentences, an appeal not supported by the two families.

They also "dissociated themselves from the short-term and badly-planned demonstrations such as Friday's one in Verviers."

The rally of 7,000 people in the eastern town broke up in disarray after organisers took the microphone to oppose bringing back the death penalty for paedophiles.

Lejeune and Russo's parents added they had not given any permission for funds to be collected in their daughters' names except through one bank account which they had specially opened.

## Japanese ruling party chief told to stay away from new party

TOKYO (AFP) — The head of one of the three parties in Japan's ruling coalition was told Sunday he was not welcome to join a new party being formed by his deputy.

Yukio Hatoyama, the number two in New Party Sakigake, rejected the offer made Saturday by party chief Masayoshi Takemura, who offered to step down as leader and move into the "rear guard" of the new party.

"I will tell him that I want him to refrain from participating in the founding of the new party," Mr. Hatoyama told reporters, referring to a meeting with Mr. Takemura scheduled for Tuesday.

"If he does not accept my request, I would be ready to leave the party," said Mr. Hatoyama, who has been promoting his bid to form a new liberal party for the past several months.

"He is a great man, but he is heavily burdened with a negative image of Sakigake," Mr. Hatoyama said.

Sakigake is the smallest party in the coalition with the powerful Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), headed by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, and the Social Democratic Party.

Mr. Takemura, who has headed Sakigake since its founding in 1993, has been criticised for a scheme to use billions of dollars in taxpayers' money to liquidate housing loan companies which went bust after Japan's "bubble" economy of the 1980s collapsed.

The plan was drawn up last December, when Mr. Takemura was finance minister.

"To be honest, I'm surprised," Mr. Takemura told Japan Broadcasting Corp. after hearing Mr. Hatoyama's rejection.

"If we cannot reach any compromise, I will have to make a final decision after consulting other members of Sakigake," he said.

Mr. Takemura had been hoping that Sakigake would join Mr. Hatoyama's new party en bloc.

The rejection signals that Mr. Hatoyama, a grandson of late Prime Minister Ichiro Hatoyama and touted as a promising upcoming leader, is opting for a broader alliance with members of the opposition New Frontier Party, analysts said.

Mr. Hatoyama's New Party is widely expected to trigger another round of political realignment in Japan, which started in 1993 when the coalition headed by then Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa ousted the LDP, which monopolised the government for decades.

## Ghali's election fight goes underground

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The fight over the reelection of U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has gone underground following a security council decision to call a temporary truce.

Security Council President Topo Eitel informed journalists Friday that the consensus within the 15-member council was that the issue of the secretary general's election should not be raised "before the ministerial week of the General Assembly."

The decision effectively puts off any discussion on the future of the 73-year-old Egyptian official until at least the beginning of October, with foreign ministers of the 185-nation U.N. General Assembly due to gather here from Sept. 23.

Washington, which is threatening to veto Dr. Ghali for a second term, had been campaigning among its Security Council partners to raise the issue now in order to allow new candidates to step forward.

After hearing Thursday of the results of Mr. Eitel's bilateral soundings, U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright accused her partners of being "irresponsible" for seeking to delay the discussion.

According to one Western diplomat present, she added that "while she loved her

colleagues dearly, she had no intention of spending New Year's Eve in the company of fourteen men," referring to her Security Council partners.

Dr. Ghali's current five-year mandate expires on December 31 and the Security Council casts the decisive vote on the secretary general's post.

Washington argues that it will take time to find a suitable candidate to ensure that the new secretary general is committed to reforming and streamlining the world body for the 21st century.

Some Western diplomats say that Dr. Ghali's refusal to step down in the face of the U.S. veto threat is only weakening the institution at a time when the United Nations is already in dire financial straits.

However, Dr. Ghali's spokesman, Ahmad Fawzi, denied that Dr. Ghali was now a "lame duck," saying that "none of this is deterring him. He intends to pursue his mandate with vigor until the last day."

While officially saying that it is not up to him to campaign, but that the member states must decide on his future, Dr. Ghali nevertheless launched a veiled attack on the United States in a speech to a U.N. congress to be delivered Monday.

Noting that the institution

was currently in a "profound crisis," Dr. Ghali said: "We are all conscious of the financial crisis."

"But there is also a political crisis whereby some are trying to weaken the bases of the authority, of the legitimacy of the United Nations, and hence of multilateral action," he added.

He did not elaborate, but his target appeared clear. In recent days, Dr. Ghali has been attacked by the U.S. mission here, by Republicans at their San Diego convention and by right-wing U.S. Senator Jesse Helms.

Influential congressional Democrats meanwhile have linked Washington's continued refusal to pay its U.N. dues to the presence of the current secretary general.

In a further sign of the guerrilla warfare to come, the Egyptian mission to the United Nations Friday circulated copies of a U.S. newspaper article with the short comment: "A true word is always there."

The article from the Chicago Tribune, pointing an accusatory finger at Washington, concluded that "if the U.N. has been less than what it could have been in these pivotal years, the primary responsibility for that failure has not been Ghali's."

## Burundi leader holds talks with Nyerere

BUJUMBURA (R) — Burundi's President Pierre Buyoya, his country under sanctions following a military coup last month, flew Sunday to Tanzania to meet former President Julius Nyerere, presidential officials said in Bujumbura.

Mr. Nyerere is playing a leading role in mediation between Maj. Buyoya and other African leaders. The meeting was taking place at Butiana, Mr. Nyerere's home in western Tanzania. Maj. Buyoya's aides said.

They gave no further details, but said Maj. Buyoya was expected to return to Bujumbura later Sunday.

Maj. Buyoya's meeting with Mr. Nyerere was the latest in a series of high-level contacts with leaders in Tanzania and Uganda since the east African states imposed sanctions on trade and communications with Burundi after the July 25 coup there.

East African ministers meeting in Kampala, the Ugandan capital, this month agreed to ban travel to and from Burundi by members of the Buyoya government.

Despite this declaration, there have been several high-level meetings between Maj. Buyoya ministers and representatives of other African governments, with Burundi apparently seeking a softening of the trade sanctions.

The sanctions are hitting Burundi hard. Strict rationing of petrol is already in force and there is a growing shortage of many other imported goods.

Burundi has no local oil supplies, and normally imports petrol through Tanzania's Indian Ocean port, Dar Es Salaam.

Goods are normally carried by rail across Tanzania to the Lake Tanganyika port of Kigoma, and from there by ship to Bujumbura.

But the movement of ships from Kigoma to Bujumbura has halted, and Tanzania and Zaire recently agreed to step up efforts to stop the smuggling of goods to Burundi in small boats on Lake Tanganyika.

## 40 killed as floods submerge over 1,100 Pakistani villages

LAHORE, Pakistan (AFP) — Tens of thousands of people have been left homeless and 40 killed as floods inundated more than 1,100 villages in central Pakistan's Punjab province, police and officials said Sunday.

The floods, caused by rain-swollen rivers overflowing their banks, have so far affected around 800,000 people, a senior administration official told AFP.

The exact losses were still being tallied, but vast areas of rice, sugar cane and other crops had been devastated and the losses could run into millions of dollars, said the official, who did not want to be named.

Army troops, called out after devastating rains in the Punjab capital Lahore Friday, were busy evacuat-

ing marooned people, officials said.

The rain in Lahore and adjoining areas claimed 30 lives, mainly due to collapsing houses, while officials said 14 more people died in other Punjab districts over the past two days.

Lahore received 446 millimetres of rain in just over two days by Friday, breaking the previous record of 130 millimetres in 24 hours in 1976, the Meteorological Office said.

Troops were also rushed to Sialkot, bordering India, where some 500 villages have been submerged, officials said.

Helicopters have been dropping food packets in the area while army boats were moving people to safer places, residents said.

Life was also disrupted

in Gujrat, Wazirabad and Narowal due to overflowing rivers, official said, adding that some 600 villages in these districts were under six feet (about two metres) water, officials said.

The authorities have set up relief camps in schools and government buildings to provide food and shelter to the people.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto announced cash compensation for affected families and directed the Punjab provincial government to take the necessary steps to assist dislocated people.

The Meteorological Department said no further rain was expected in the next few days, which would help the rescue operation.

## 4 women enroll at all-male U.S. military school

CHARLESTON, S.C. (R) — Four women, in an historic move, enrolled Saturday at South Carolina's formerly all-male military college, cheered on by a group of about a dozen supporters outside the Citadel's wrought-iron gates.

Nancy Mace and Kim Messer both of South Carolina, Jeanie Mentavios of North Carolina and Petra Lovetinska of Washington, D.C. were the first group of women were accepted by the school based on a policy change. Like all Citadel freshmen, the four were not allowed to talk to the news media waiting at the front gate. They went to their barracks and put on shorts and T-shirts issued to all cadets for physical training. On Monday, all cadets are scheduled to receive uniforms to mark the start of hell week, so called for its aggressive, confrontational training exercises. "Everyone is focusing on how to make this a very successful orientation," Citadel Acting President Clifton Poole told reporters. After the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June that the all-male admissions policy at the state-supported Virginia Military Institute (VMI) was unconstitutional, the Citadel, the only other state-funded, all-male college in the nation, dropped its legal battle and changed its policy within days. VMI has not yet decided whether to go private or admit women, as the order specified. Asked whether the cadets were instructed to behave in any particular way, Mr. Poole said, "You cannot tell them what to think and you can't tell them what to say except when they're in military formation."

Thai Romeo in jail for paying surprise visit on 'lover'

SINGAPORE (AFP) — A Thailand construction worker has been sentenced to prison here for breaking into the room of his alleged lover, a Filipina maid, in the wee hours of the morning, the New Paper afternoon daily said. Sawang Photai, 33, was jailed for six months for housebreaking by Subordinate Court Judge Ibrahim Burhan, whose eyes widened when told that the defendant had entered the maid's room at 1:00 a.m., the report said. The 22-year-old Philippine maid said Sawang touched her breasts when she was sleeping, giving her the fright of her life, the New Paper said. Mr. Sawang told the court that he had been exchanging notes with the Filipina maid and that she had asked him to meet her on her day off. He said that in his "excitement" to see her, he thought the girl wanted to meet him in the middle of the night — so he surprised her by breaking into her room at 1:00 a.m. The Filipina said she woke up when she felt someone touching her breast. When she saw Mr. Sawang standing next to her bed, she shouted at him to leave and alerted her employer, Mr. Sawang, a father of two who has lost his job, told the court that he would have to put up with questioning by his wife when he returned home from jail. "I plead for leniency, your honor, because I have in my home and face another charge — from my wife," he told the judge.

Turkish drug firm seek Iraq deals

U.S. guards stage prisoner 'cockfights'

LOS ANGELES (R) — The Los Angeles Times newspaper has said that guards in a California prison arranged "cockfights" between inmates, betting on the men and shooting several of them. The newspaper, citing prison officials, said California's toughest maximum-security jail, Corcoran State Prison, ranked highest in the United States for inmate killings with routine reports of torture and cover-ups by prison guards. "It was common practice, they say, for guards to pair off rival inmates like roosters in a cockfight, complete with spectators and wagering, then sometimes shoot those who wouldn't stop fighting," the newspaper said.

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By Samir

**Turkish drug firm seek Iraq deals**

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A WRITER FOR Al Ra'i daily Sunday urged the Arab leaders to follow the example of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in directing strong criticism at Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and exercise pressure on him to comply with the requirements of peace. Arab leaders would not wait for the complete demise of the peace process at the hands of Netanyahu but must rather move quickly to denounce Israel's shirking of responsibility towards the peace process and stimulate the world community's efforts to force the Israeli government to refrain from committing further illegal practices against the Palestinians or building more settlements in occupied Arab territories, said Sultan Al Hatab. The behaviour of the Israeli government, its refusal to commit itself to implementing the Oslo agreements and its drive to deprive the Palestinians of their legitimate rights are pushing the Palestinians and their leadership towards the edge of desperation, continued the writer. By turning his back to the peace process, by disregarding the calls for withdrawing Israeli forces from the Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian lands and by demanding peace with the Arab states without swapping it with lands, Netanyahu is showing the world that it only respects the language of force and seeking more acts of aggression, said the writer. He warned that the death of the peace process will be costly to Israel as well as the Arab countries and will be detrimental to the future of the whole region.

Consider for instance the ethnic diversity of the visitors who come to Jordan. Last year, Jordan received over 100,000 Israeli tourists, and in the last seven months as Israeli tourism decreased after the elections in Israel, Jordan hosted over 291,000 Gulf citizens as our bilateral relations improved. Both the Gulf and Israel are culturally diverse, with possibly diametrically opposed demands and patterns of behaviour. Their impacts on the cultural sensibilities of Jordanians will also be different and at times may be offensive to the sensitivities of the culture of the land. If one were to consider the population of Jordan and take into account that the tourists mainly visit specific areas of Jordan, the ethnic diversity and the number of tourists that bombard some segments of society are

The importance of studying the cultural accommodation capacity of Jordanians and the benefits that could be gained by businesses from such studies should not be underestimated. By knowing the tolerances and comfort zones of Jordanians, sustainable tourism can be created and ushered to Jordan in an optimal manner. In other words, let's find out what we are really good at in tourism and produce it with a willing and enthusiastic work force — the Jordanian people.

Hordes of Western bureaucrats also descended on the country to rebuild roads, bridges, housing and government institutions.

However the OSCE decided to proceed with elections nonetheless, saying there was a reasonable prospect they would be democratic.



It would be good to abolish all nuclear weapons on the planet, but there is no consensus on that yet. Miraculously, there is a consensus on banning all nuclear weapons tests, which will greatly hinder both the development of new weapons by existing nuclear powers, and the spread of nuclear weapons to new countries.

weapons is willing to ban all testing forever more. Every other country that might aspire to nuclear weapons is willing to sign away its right to test them forever. This may be a once-in-a-century opportunity — and India is sabotaging it in order to retain a right it has not exercised for the past 22 years.

For all practical purposes, India already has nuclear weapons. Its only test of a “nuclear explosive device,” allegedly for peaceful purposes, was at Pokhran in 1974, but

In 1990, former South African president FW de Klerk ordered the dismantling of the six bombs South Africa built in the 1980s. He later opened all the country's records and nuclear installations to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors.

The Conference on Disarmament closes with no agreement to forward the CTBT text to the United Nations, but all is not lost. Later this autumn, a broad coalition of countries will almost certainly submit the same text to the United Nations General Assembly, where India has no veto. Then, over the next few years, everybody else can sign on — and unanimity minus one is still worth having.

Hordes of Western bureaucrats also descended on the country to rebuild roads, bridges, housing and government institutions. The promise and the

tentatively scheduled to take place in March, was delayed because of a temporary deadlock in pre-occupying the government.



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# Equality of the sexes: Year after Beijing, momentum is on

## Women activists take it on their own

A YEAR ago, the largest gathering of women in history took place in Beijing. A 150-page blueprint to achieve equality of the sexes was adopted by 189 states. An Associated Press reporter, **Edith M. Lederer**, examines what has happened since the U.N. conference to transform words into action.

LONDON — Brazil has promised free cancer-screening exams for women. The United States is spending \$1.6 billion to try to end domestic violence. South African President Nelson Mandela is setting up a unit in his office to monitor the status of women.

A year after 189 states pledged to make equality of the sexes a reality in the 21st century, many governments are crediting the conference for their latest steps to help women.

"The momentum is on — and this momentum is not only by women but even by governments and by men," said Gertrude Mongella, secretary-general of the Fourth World Conference on Women that adopted a 150-page plan to achieve women's equality.

Inspired by last September's U.N. conference in Beijing, five Mongolian women ran for parliament in June and won, bringing the total number of female legislators to seven out of 76. Women's groups in Zaire joined forces to try to change laws that bar women from travelling or opening bank accounts without their husbands' permission.

But very few countries have committed new resources to implement the women's agenda.

Many are juggling existing funds and some countries, like Argentina and Colombia, have drastically cut resources for women, according to a 25-nation survey by the New York-based Women's Environment and Development Organisation.

South Africa was the only country surveyed that was considering reallocating part of its military budget to support women's economic advancement.

Noeleen Heyzer, director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, is concerned the partnership between women's groups and governments that helped make the Beijing conference such a success may start to crumble — and a key reason is money.

"Many women's organisations are having problems sustaining themselves after Beijing — and yet they are most needed now in the monitoring and implementation of priorities and recommendations that have come out of Beijing," she said.

At the heart of the struggle for women's equality are the raw statistics of inequality: Females constitute 70 per cent of the world's 1.3 billion poor, 65 per cent of the illiterate and 11 per cent of legislators. Women's earnings average 75 per cent those of men.

"What is really lacking is opportunities... especially in the area of women's economic and political participation," Heyzer said. "What's still lacking is partnership with the private sector."

Grassroots groups in many countries have started lobbying to put women in the top echelons of big business. In June, the first Global Women Entrepreneurs Trade Fair was held in Accra, Ghana.

International voluntary organisations have also set a goal of giving 100 million

HRH Princess Basma, a newly named goodwill U.N. ambassador, is calling a meeting in late September to talk about implementing the Beijing platform in the Arab World



of the world's poorest families — especially the women — access to credit by 2005.

At Beijing, Western governments and lending institutions fell in love with this concept of "micro-credit" — providing small loans to enable poor women to start small businesses.

The grassroots groups are organising a micro-credit summit in Washington on Feb. 2-4, with First Lady Hillary Clinton as an honorary co-chair, and inviting lending institutions and governments to take part. They hope at least half the \$20 billion in capital needed to help the poorest will come from the private sector.

One little-noticed outcome of the Beijing conference was a campaign by 1,000 voluntary groups to try to shift the funding priorities of the World Bank to issues women care about — alleviating poverty, improving health care and education.

Activists from the campaign — women's eyes on the World Bank — expect to meet the bank's president, James Wolfensohn, on Sept. 6. The bank has given \$30 million to fund micro-credit projects and has asked 12 women from voluntary organisations to consult on its gender issues.

The campaign activists will be attending a confer-

ence in Washington from Sept. 5-8, organised by the Association of Women and Development, where 1,200 women from around the world will discuss progress on implementing the Beijing agenda.

In the United Nations, Secretary-General Boutros Ghali appointed Assistant Secretary-General Rosario Green of Mexico to oversee implementation of the Beijing agenda and all U.N. conference agreements on gender issues.

The intense debates in Beijing over abortion, sexual rights and inheritance rights illustrated the divisions among women and governments on key issues.

Since Beijing, Heyzer said she has noticed that the old divide between women from industrialised and Third World countries is diminishing — but the divide between feminists and fundamentalists is growing, especially in more developed countries.

Many Muslim countries in the Middle East and some staunchly Roman Catholic nations have been very slow to take on the Beijing agenda. But in some of these countries, women themselves are taking the lead.

Princess Basma, a newly named goodwill U.N. ambassador, is calling a meeting in late September to talk about implementing

LONDON (AP) — Many women legislators who were in Beijing for last year's U.N. conference have decided not to wait for their governments to act.

Elske Ter Veld, a senator from the Netherlands, helped establish a data bank of women qualified for top jobs — and women's groups are lobbying male-dominated local authorities and the boards of big Dutch companies such as Shell and Philips to hire these women.

"They look at the world through men's eyes. We must learn to look at the world through women's eyes," she said. "That's what we learned from Beijing."

In Colombia, female senators from the liberal and conservative parties invited ministers to a televised public debate on their plans to implement and monitor the Beijing agenda. In Brazil, female legislators selected 15 bills to push as priorities for women — including punishing violence against women.

Around the world, women's organisations have also been in the forefront, pushing for change.

A caucus of Japanese voluntary groups is lobbying for a ministry for women and a decree on violence against

women.

"Rape is not a crime in our country," said caucus member Yoko Kitazawa, co-president of the Pacific Asia Resource Centre in Tokyo, explaining that injury to the body is a crime but forcing sexual intercourse isn't.

"It's a big issue, but hidden," she said. "Violence against women is also hidden."

The Cameroon Women's Networking Association is pushing for laws to guarantee equal rights to inherit property and in commercial activities.

"You know in Africa when you are married, you are a property of your husband. You are treated like a table. But with this new code, this will change," said Honoree Epee, an association leader.

For the first time, the world knows "what women's empowerment really means — even if they are not in power yet," said Brazilian feminist Thais Corral.

"By the end of the 21st century, we will do it."

## Agenda for women's equality cuts across culture

HIGHLIGHTS of platform for action adopted a year ago at the U.N. Women's conference in Beijing to achieve women's equality in 21st century:

**Poverty:** Calls for women to have greater access to credit, revised laws to ensure women's equal access to economic resources.

**Education:** Calls on governments to commit by 2000 to universal access to basic education, completion of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary school-age children. Demands all countries achieve universal education before 2015.

**Health:** Says women have right to affordable and quality health care. Recognises woman's right to obtain information and make decisions on reproduction, to control own sexuality free of coercion. Sets targets to reduce maternal mortality.

**Abortion:** Commits nations to consider reviewing laws containing punitive measures against women who undergo illegal abortion. Reiterates: "In no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning."

**Violence:** Recognises that in all societies women and girls are subject to physical, sexual and psychological

abuse. Recognises that sexual slavery, forced abortion, pre-natal sex selection and female infanticide are acts of violence. Urges governments to adopt legislation to end violence against women.

**Armed conflict:** Recognises that rape in armed conflict is a crime, in certain circumstances an act of genocide. Economy: Calls for elimination of all forms of employment discrimination, equal access for women to jobs.

**Decision-making:** Urges women have equal access to "power structures" in government, public administration, political parties, trade unions.

**Inheritance:** Emphasises injustice and discrimination women and girls often face regarding equal right to inheritance.

**Parental responsibility:** Recognises rights of parents to provide guidance to young people but upholds rights of young to information, confidentiality and informed consent on matters related to sexuality and reproduction.

**Family:** Recognises family as basic unit of society, also recognises "various forms of the family exist."

**Unpaid work:** Calls for methods to assess value of unpaid work — AP

the Beijing platform in the Arab World. A conference on increasing women's participation in politics is scheduled in Yemen in October.

"There is no quick fix here," said Susan Davis, executive director of the

women's environment and development organisation. "This is centuries of inequality that we are trying to reverse in the context of severe global inequality."

But she is nonetheless heartened by preliminary results from a survey of

over 50 countries on implementation of the Beijing agenda. Called "Beyond Promises — Governments in Motion," it will be published in September.

India, South Africa and Indonesia have already incorporated priorities from

Beijing into national action plans.

On Sept. 28, town meetings linked by satellite to the White House inter-agency council will be held in 1,000 cities across the United States to develop the American plan.

## Prime minister presents blueprint for economic development

(Continued from page 1)

— A first draft is also ready of a law for protecting national economy which aims at preventing the dumping of products and illegal practices in international trade.

— A law for financing guarantees will allow the hypothecation of current assets for obtaining financing. The law will encourage small industries to expand and increase production and efficiency.

Mr. Kabarti said that some other laws have been amended, including the Companies Law, the first draft of which has been prepared and is currently being reviewed. The amendments aim at simplifying registration procedures for new companies and minimising the requirements

for registration. In addition, this law will encourage reinvestment of profits through cancelling the capitalisation tax on reserves.

— A law for securities which draws upon organisational framework for the Amman Financial Market, and to control securities' trading and protect investors.

The Customs Law has been completed in a draft form and will be presented to specialised committees soon, the prime minister said.

The government is also preparing the legal framework for mutual funds to consolidate small savings in order to activate various economic and financial activities. The operations of these mutual funds will be controlled by a Jordan securities and exchange

commission, Mr. Kabarti stated.

The prime minister noted that the government had laid down a comprehensive working plan to privatise public sector institutions which are involved in direct production activities. In this context, he added, the government has decided to form a ministerial committee to draw up the general policies for the privatisation process and to set up a technical unit to implement it.

In the agricultural sector, an agreement has been concluded with the European Union (EU) to allow the export of 82 agricultural products from Jordan to EU countries. The Jordanian negotiating team for the Euro-Jordanian partnership agreement is working on including additional prod-

ucts to be exported free of customs to the EU countries, Mr. Kabarti said.

The prime minister said social security measures will also be taken to "ensure social justice and equality and prosperity for all members of society."

These measures, Mr. Kabarti said, include providing basic social services with the lowest possible cost. The government, he said, will expand the number of people covered by health insurance such as daily workers at different ministries, adding that investments in the health sector will be given priority, especially in underdeveloped areas.

The government has presented an investment programme for infrastructure development in the poor areas of the Kingdom, the

prime minister said.

He added that the government will also provide the unemployed with the required skills through providing employment opportunities or establishing small-scale projects.

Mr. Kabarti said the government will also set a comprehensive programme to finance the small income-generating projects and provide them with skills to ensure their success.

At the end of the meeting, members of the private sector presented their views on the government's proposals and requested that the government reconsider other laws pertaining to intellectual property rights, income tax law, sales tax law and the law regarding the audit bureau.

## Japanese minister visits Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

million grant to finance the reconstruction of Sheikh Hussein bridge and build access roads and terminal facilities (see page 3).

Mr. Kabarti received Mr. Ikeda in his office and reviewed with him bilateral cooperation in the political and economic fields as well as the latest developments in the region.

Mr. Ikeda renewed an invitation to Mr. Kabarti to visit Japan. The visit was tentatively scheduled to take place in March but was delayed because of a parliamentary deadlock that was preoccupying the Tokyo government.

It was not known when Mr. Kabarti would visit

Japan. Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto is expected to call general elections in October, and, as such, it is unlikely that a visit by Mr. Kabarti could be scheduled between now and October.

Ken Shimanouchi, official spokesman for the Japanese foreign minister, told a press briefing that Japan was seeking to "deepen its involvement in the peace process" and noted that "high-level contacts" between Japan and the region's countries were steadily increasing.

He referred to the visit to the Middle East last year of then Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama. Mr. Ikeda's participation as Japan's representative at the "Summit

of Peacemakers" in Sharm Al Sheikh in March, the foreign minister's recent visit to Turkey, and Japan's contribution of soldiers to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force on the Golan Heights.

The spokesman also referred to Japan's involvement in the multilateral phase of the peace process, where Tokyo chairs a working group on the environment and a committee on tourism as part of a working group on regional economic cooperation.

"There is a limit to what Japan can do" to advance the peace process on the political level, Mr. Shimanouchi said in an implicit reference to the dominant U.S. role in Mideast peace

negotiations. But, Tokyo attaches high importance to peace in the Mideast, given "the interdependence among nations."

The spokesman said Japan believes that "a channel of dialogue should be created to develop cooperative relations" between the Arabs and Israel.

In this regard, "it is important to note the role played by Jordan," he said without elaboration.

Mr. Ikeda met with Israeli President Ezer Weizman in West Jerusalem Sunday afternoon and later with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Arafat is scheduled to visit Japan early next month.

The Japanese foreign minister, who started the Middle East swing in Egypt on Aug. 21 before visiting

## PNA closes offices

(Continued from page 1)

"After an exchange of opinions, we agreed that the meeting would be held — no date was set — in my house, which is the most appropriate place," Mr. Weizman said after consulting with Mr. Netanyahu at the president's Jerusalem office.

Israel Radio reported the meeting in the central Israeli village of Caesarea would take place within two weeks.

Mr. Weizman said Mr. Arafat had sent him a letter "in which he spelled out his troubles and problems and said 'I hope we will meet soon'."

"After the letter was translated to Hebrew, I invited the prime minister to see me last Tuesday. I showed him the letter. He read it carefully. Afterwards I told him, 'look, I want to agree to his request and meet him and I propose I do so in (my private residence) in Caesarea,'" Mr. Weizman said.

The Yedioth Ahronoth daily said the president had given Mr. Netanyahu until Sunday morning to agree either to meet Mr. Arafat himself or give Mr. Weizman the green light to issue an invitation.

Mr. Netanyahu, who

opposes the principle of exchanging occupied land for peace — the bedrock of the former Labour government's peace deals with the Palestinians — has said he has no desire to see Mr. Arafat.

But Mr. Weizman, again putting Mr. Netanyahu on the spot, said he believed the prime minister would eventually talk to Mr. Arafat.

"I suppose that as time goes by and things develop, the prime minister will meet him... at the appropriate date," said Mr. Weizman, who as defence minister in the late Menachem Begin's right-wing government helped forge peace with Egypt.

On Thursday Mr. Netanyahu, elected on May 29, telephoned Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to tell him that peace talks with the PLO last held before the Israeli poll would resume "in the very near future."

Mr. Netanyahu was apparently shaken by Mr. Mubarak's suggestion earlier on Thursday that he might cancel a Middle East economic summit in November over Israel's stalling peace moves.

Asked why he had agreed to meet Mr. Arafat, Mr. Weizman said: "First-

ly because of (this) distress. But that is not the main thing: Arafat, whether we want it or not, is the first Palestinian leader in 100 years of confrontation to have achieved a great political achievement."

Mr. Weizman has met Mr. Arafat once, at the 1994 inauguration of South African President Nelson Mandela.

"Today he has control over more than two million Palestinians. When a leader like that, who is my neighbour, asks to see me, I think I have to agree," Mr. Weizman said.

There was no immediate reaction from Mr. Arafat to Mr. Weizman's comments.

Only months ago, Mr. Weizman — who has never let his ceremonial post stop him venting his opinions — publicly demanded the former Labour government suspend peace efforts with Mr. Arafat following suicide bombings in Israel by militants.

Mr. Netanyahu was fiercely critical of a meeting last week between Mr. Arafat and his predecessor as prime minister, Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, whom he accused of interfering in the work of government.

Save water!  
Every drop counts...



## Tafleleh is a 'typical example of Jordan's existing problems in terms of development'

TAFLEH, Jordan (AFP)—Plagued by unemployment and off the tourist track, this southern town is a "typical example of Jordan's existing problems in terms of development," says its mayor, Ahmad Qaraane.

Tafleleh, some 200 kilometres south of Amman, was one of four towns in the south of the country rocked by violent protests on Aug. 16 and 17 over the government's withdrawal of bread subsidies.

Overlooking the Jordan River valley, Tafleleh's lush green landscape contrasts with the arid plains that make up 90 per cent of the kingdom. "But still, the town is one of Jordan's poorest areas," said Mr. Qaraane.

With its Afra hot springs

and nature preserves, this billy town with a population of some 20,000 would appear to have all the makings of an ideal summer resort.

But it falls victim to its remoteness from the tourist highway, linking Amman to Aqaba, Jordan's only Red Sea resort some 365 kilometres south of the capital.

"One of our demands is to be integrated into the tourist circuit," said Mr. Qaraane.

Agricultural, industrial and canned food projects are also feasible, but the town lacks the funds, and the government is helpless because of its commitment to a tight economic reform programme under International Monetary Fund guidance.

"Salaries from the public

administration and the private sector make up most of the inhabitants' income," said the mayor. "And banks lend money only to entrepreneurs and professionals with experience."

In its drive towards prosperity, Tafleleh pinned much hope on the peace treaty sealed with Israel in 1994. But little has come of it.

"I spent 10,000 dinars (\$14,000) to turn my house into a motel hoping that tourists would turn up in big numbers under peace," said Hussein Sa'aydeh. "But just a few have shown up."

Sa'aydeh's Afra Hotel receives an average of only five guests a month.

"Tourists do come here from time to time but they only drive through and do

not stay overnight," he said. "Most guests are civil servants on assignment."

For Sa'aydeh, "a real crisis was behind the riots." He cites the example of the hardship and grumbling of his seven jobless brothers.

Unemployment is officially estimated at 15 per cent in Jordan, but the jobless rate in Tafleleh is believed to be much higher as illustrated by the dozens of young people aimlessly roaming the streets.

"One can only get a government job through good contacts," said Ali aqqal, 23, who holds a degree in electrical engineering but is unable to find a job. "When the price of bread and basic products went up, I took to the street."

"The limited vacancies

available in the private sector are underpaid and most often stripped of social insurance," said Khalil Fawzi, a construction site foreman.

"Jordanians tend to turn them down and they go to foreigners, Egyptians mainly," he said.

Seeing little hope in their hometown, the young seek better opportunities in Amman, where a strong Tafleleh community lives in the district of Tafayleh, which means "the neighbourhood of the people from Tafleleh" in Arabic.

That poor neighbourhood was the only one in the capital to have witnessed unrest, a sign that the migrants have achieved very little of their dreams.

## Iraq-Jordan row unlikely to harm trade - diplomats

BAGHDAD (R)—Amman's accusations that Iraq incited riots in Jordan are unlikely to hurt bilateral trade, diplomats and analysts said Sunday.

They said the exchange of goods was vital for both countries and neither would like to see the apparent political strains spill over to the cross-border trade.

Jordan, accusing Iraq of fomenting riots which broke out on Aug. 16 after Amman doubled bread prices, has ordered out two Iraqi diplomats and an administrator at Iraq's embassy in Amman.

Baghdad's response has been restrained so far. Iraqi officials have not commented on the riots in Jordan and the official newspapers have been silent.

"They have not even reacted to the sending of their (Iraqi) diplomats home. It looks to me that Baghdad thinks Jordan's benefits from trade with Iraq will eventually outweigh any political differences," said an Arab diplomat.

Diplomats said sanctions-hit Iraq was keen to continue supplying Jordan with its oil needs and Jordan's troubled economy would suffer in case of any rupture in trade with Iraq.

Jordan, which is exempt from U.N. sanctions that bar Iraq from freely exporting its oil following its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, imports about 80,000 barrels per day (bpd) from Iraq.

The oil exports bring cash-strapped Iraq about \$500 million a year. Jordan deposits the money in an escrow account at its central bank and pays almost half of it to finance Jordanian exports to Iraq.

"Cutting commercial links with Iraq would harm Jordan's economy. In the same way Baghdad would be deprived of a major source of income," said one diplomat. Jordan, the diplomat said, would also lose transit trade from its Red Sea port of Aqaba, expected to boom once Iraq starts buying the humanitarian goods allowed under Baghdad's oil-for-food deal with the United Nations allowing exports of oil worth \$2 billion over six months.

The Arab diplomat said it would be hard for Jordan, despite persistent efforts to woo oil-rich Gulf states, to find a new oil source which would match the terms offered by Iraq.

Jordan pays the market price for 25,000 bpd of Iraq's crude and for another 25,000 bpd of petroleum products. The rest it pays for at undisclosed concessionary rates.

"I do not think any Arab Gulf state would be willing to sell Jordan oil in return for goods manufactured in Jordan," said the diplomat.

## Italy braces for autumn of discontent as economy stagnates

ROME (AFP)—Italian business leaders have warned that the country was on the brink of recession, as a stagnant economy and high unemployment coupled with budget cuts raised fears of an autumn of discontent.

Figures released recently showed Italian industrial production slumped 6.3 per cent in June and by 0.7 per cent in the first half of the year. The story was similar in the auto industry, where new registrations fell 0.3 per cent in the first seven months of the year.

In addition, consumption has dropped and growth in exports, the engine of economic growth in previous years, has slowed. Italy's unemployment is among the highest in Europe at more than 12 per cent.

"The signs seem to me to be unequivocal. We are even closer to recession," said Cesare Romiti, chairman of Italian carmaker Fiat, the country's largest privately-owned company.

A report published last month by the national statistics office Istat said the number of poor people in Italy was 6.5 million in 1995. More than 2.1 million families lived below the poverty line, with income of less than \$747 a

month for two people.

In contrast, central bank figures showed that more than 31,000 bank accounts in Italy contain more than one billion lire (\$670,000), with 40 people a day joining the "billionaires club."

Prime Minister Romano Prodi's three-month-old centre-left government is due to present in September a budget containing a hefty \$20.6 billion in savings — mainly spending cuts — to meet the rigorous demands of the Maastricht treaty on European monetary union (EMU).

Wary of the risks of an outbreak of social unrest, Mr. Prodi stressed Italy's determination to join the single European currency — but not at any price.

"I want to follow the Maastricht criteria because they exist, and when you want to participate in the game you have to follow the rules," Mr. Prodi said in an interview with the Wall Street Journal Europe.

But he said he would not be concerned if Italy joined the EMU late.

"Our strategy of going into Europe is without alternative. (Italy must get into Europe) without killing the country," said Mr. Prodi.

He also pointed to the

government's success in some sectors. "I have to put my country on a virtuous circle and we are close: Inflation has been decreasing and this must be followed by drops in real interest rates. If I can do that, I can start to cancel out parts of the debt — slowly, slowly."

Countries wishing to be founder members of the single currency must reduce their public deficits to three per cent of gross domestic product by 1997.

Under a three-year economic plan, Mr. Prodi's government has said the public deficit will amount to 88 trillion lire (\$57 billion), or 4.4 per cent of GDP, in 1997, falling to 3.0 per cent, or 61 trillion lire, at the end of 1998.

But Mr. Romiti said in an interview with the newspaper La Repubblica that the inevitable result of obeying the "anti-expansionist" Maastricht criteria would be a decline in production and consumption.

The government must be "pushed into taking measures designed to revitalise industrial production and consumption, a difficult operation, because our country's budget is very tight and without any room for choice," he said.

Carlo Callieri, vice-chairman of the employers' organisation Confindustria, said he feared "the autumn will be very difficult," adding that some companies were already feeling the effects of recession.

"I feel there'll be a general climate of negative action in the coming months," he told La Stampa, adding that he was concerned at the government's reliance in parliament on the extreme left-wing refounded Communist Party.

Mr. Prodi's coalition, while commanding a solid majority in the senate,

needs the support of the communists in the lower chamber of deputies.

"The resumption of a social struggle by workers is necessary — they have suffered a reduction in buying power, modifications to the social systems, and aggravated job problems," said communist leader Fausto Bertinotti.

Mr. Bertinotti did not rule out a general strike by Italy's metal workers who have been refused wage rises.

**JUMBLE.** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
by Harri Arnold and Milla Argenti

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RARIF  
WEELJ  
FLABEL  
LENKER

Print answer here: IN

Saturday's Jumbles: IRATE PEGAN CUDDLE BURLAP  
Answer: How the rodeo stars ended the competition — ALL TIED UP

**THE BETTER HALF.** By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN

"How embarrassing! Our neighbors' cat got her own personal Web page before we did!"

**Peanuts**

I'M READY FOR THE SPELLING BEE, MARCIE. I'VE STUDIED EVERY WORD AND EVERY RULE..

THE SPELLING BEE WAS THREE MONTHS AGO, SIR..

"I BEFORE E EXCEPT AFTER RATS!"

**Andy Capp**

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WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT?

YOU NEVER SEEM TO BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL THE TRUTH.

MAYBE YOU DON'T GET ENOUGH PRACTICE.

**Mutt'n' Jeff**

THE DOVES AND PIGEONS ARE GETTING TO KNOW ME!

I FEEL SORRY FOR THEM! PICKINGS ARE SCARCE THESE DAYS!

PRIME TIME FOR THE MAGICIAN

**THE Daily Crossword** by Diane C. Baldwin

ACROSS

1 Lady of rank  
5 Dervish  
10 Garden item  
14 Give approval  
15 Cream of the crop  
16 Reps.  
17 Holland sight  
18 Pulls out the stops  
20 "— for the money.."  
21 Paddy plant  
22 Queen of mystery  
23 Show appreciation  
25 Auctioneer's aim  
26 Sedan shelter  
28 Move with urgency  
32 Fill with awe  
33 Fischer's game  
34 Bygone Mideast coalition  
35 "I Love —" (old TV show)  
38 Call up  
37 Snare, for one  
38 "— and ye shall receive"  
39 Prattle  
40 — hand (help)  
41 Convention meetings  
43 Particular styles  
44 Latvia native  
45 Certain African  
46 Grief relief  
49 Kind of jazz  
50 Gets a move on  
55 Up to the task  
56 Tide's partner  
57 Court event  
58 Professional charges  
59 Sorrowful sounds  
60 Contest prize  
61 Horse gait

DOWN

1 Stupid fellow  
2 Related

3 Hotfoot it  
4 Storm center  
5 Puma or civet  
6 Smart — (wise guy)  
7 High flier  
8 "— a Wonderful Life"  
9 Practica a role  
10 Globetrotters' home  
11 Fairy tale beast  
12 To-do  
13 Catch site of Fitzgerald  
15 Current fashion  
16 Indisinct  
18 Public tiff  
20 Elegant events  
27 Entertain  
28 Gunfire  
29 Floar off  
30 Magna cum —  
31 Bombard et al.  
33 Intone  
36 Objects  
37 Bumser boo-boo

39 Recital number  
40 Musical Home  
42 Quenches  
43 Geese group  
45 "— House" (Dickens)  
46 Atl. flier  
47 Indiana neighbor

49 Barnyard baby  
49 Inter —  
51 Bread spread  
52 Annoying person  
54 Museum display  
55 Toward the stem

**HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY AUGUST 26 1996**

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Try to satisfy your needs today and go after them in a practical fashion for good results. Resolve financial difficulties later this evening and you will be able to retain some funds for the lean periods in the days ahead.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 21) Study yourself in the mirror today and see how to make improvements to your appearance and look more charming so that you will look successful to those in authority. Later this evening you can have fun with close friends.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Use common sense in the morning today and you will be able to handle any difficulty which is present. Make it a point to spend the evening with your mate and you will have fun time together out on the town.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Take care not to be too forceful in trying to gain an aim or you could find yourself in quite a difficulty with some bigwig. Later this evening a fellow associate give a good suggestion for you to succeed on a new project.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Gain much prestige with the general public through your efforts to complete your career activities on time and under budget. The evening is best for asking a bigwig for a favour and you will receive a positive response at this time.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You had better study further today into those new outlets which interest you before getting into them so that you can reduce any risks involved. Later this evening will be good for you to consult with some knowledgeable person.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Be sure to handle promises you have made today and please those who count or you could find yourself in quite a difficulty. Do not upset your mate or there could be some inconvenience which you do not necessarily need.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Be more thoughtful with fellow associates and prevent them from getting disconcerted in whatever projects you all currently involved with at this time. Later this evening make agreements with some bigwig and follow through.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Persevere in your activities today even though obstacles may arise to deter your progress and prevent you from being successful. Later this evening you should consult with some knowledgeable person and gain his or her advice.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Plan time to labour on your finest talent tonight and you will achieve great prosperity. Take hugs out of the plans you have made for the days ahead and you will discover that they will produce great success.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) If you have made promise to loved ones in the past few days, be sure to keep them conscientiously or you will find yourself in hot water. Later this evening will be good to meet with close friends and have some fun together.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Get into those rather hard activities during the daytime today so you can have free time tonight for fun and pleasure at a later time period. You can at this time meet with some authority figure and make some suggestions.

**BIRTHSTONE OF AUGUST:** Peridot — Golden Quartz

**Busin**

**Jor**

**retu**

**Turkish**

**drug firms**

**seek Iraqi**

**deals**

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Finnish rally driver Juha Kankkunen leads in his Toyota during the second day of the Thousands Lakes Rally in Jyväskylä. Four-time world champion Kankkunen extended his lead to 42 seconds in a day that saw him almost crash twice. Current world leader Colin McRae of Britain ended a bad week by crashing out earlier in the day (Reuters photo)

## Makinen fastest at 1,000 lakes rally

JYVASKYLA, Finland (R) — A relentless attack by Finn Tommi Makinen all but wiped out Juha Kankkunen's lead on the second day of the 1,000 Lakes Rally, sixth round of the World Championship, on Sunday.

Makinen set fastest times in the day's first six stages in his Mitsubishi to cut his compatriot's lead from 42 seconds to eight, despite nearly smashing the front of his car on a high-speed jump.

"I can go a bit faster but it's too much of a risk," Makinen said.

Toyota driver Kankkunen was suffering from an upset stomach and was running first — sweeping the surface free of gravel for his rivals just as Makinen did on Saturday.

A fierce battle developed for third place between Finns Marcus Gronholm and Jarmo Kytölehto and Subaru driver Kenneth Eriksson.

Eriksson had to call on a chiropractor after damaging his back on a flat-out jump. Spain's double world champion Carlos Sainz climbed to seventh in his factory-entered Ford Escort when Finn Harri Rovanpera rolled his privately-entered version on stage 17.

The 1,452-km rally finishes on Monday.

## Dutch captain ends international career

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch soccer captain Danny Blind has decided to end his international career.

Ajax spokesman David Endt said on Sunday.

Endt told Dutch news agency ANP that Blind, 35, would no longer be available for selection for the national squad.

The Ajax defender, who led the Netherlands into the quarter-finals at June's European Championship finals in England, had decided to devote his attention to playing for his Amsterdam club, Endt said.

Blind, who played in the 1990 World Cup and the 1992 European Championship, was capped 42 times for the Netherlands.

## Furious Ginola ready to leave struggling Newcastle

LONDON (AFP) — Newcastle's French star David Ginola is poised to quit the Premiership side after he launched a scathing attack on manager Kevin Keegan.

As Newcastle struggle to find the form that had them fighting for the championship last season, Ginola is upset over the way he is being asked to play.

"I spend more time defending than I do attacking," complained the Frenchman who has been linked to both Arsenal and Barcelona.

"I want to give my best but Newcastle's present system just doesn't suit me," he added.

Soon to be named Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has made no secret of his appreciation of Ginola's skills and he refuses to rule out the possibility of signing him.

Ginola's agent Olivier Godalier said Keegan was on the brink of selling the 29-year-old winger to Barcelona last month.

"I spoke directly with Keegan and we discussed the financial side," says Godalier. "When someone starts putting up the price you know they are willing to do business."

"Now Arsene Wenger is singing David's praises and closely monitoring his progress."

Newcastle have spent nearly 60 million pounds over the past two years in their attempt to build a championship winning

side but their hopes this season were severely dented after a crushing 2-1 defeat at home to Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday.

The defeat left Newcastle with a miserable three points from three games and earned the players a bitter outburst from Keegan.

"That's probably the worst performance in my reign as manager," moaned Keegan. "Our performances so far this season have been poor and we will have to start soon if we want to win anything."

"At the moment everyone has got the right to say we look a poor side. The only way we can stop goals at the moment is to board them up."

"You can't legislate for the two goals we've conceded — they were down to sloppy defending."

"In the end we were committing suicide out there and we could have got beaten by more," he added.

Newcastle chairman Sir John Hall, who has bankrolled the club's spending spree, is reported to have had a crisis meeting with Keegan and his assistant Terry McDermott.

According to the Sunday Mirror, hall told Keegan that he wanted trophies this season, not entertaining football.

## Braves rally to beat Cubs

ATLANTA (R) — Fred McGriff went 5-for-5 and homered twice, including a three-run blast with two out in the bottom of the ninth inning that lifted the Atlanta Braves to a 6-5 victory over the Chicago Cubs on Saturday.

"I was just trying to hang in there and hit it up the middle," said McGriff about his homer in the ninth. "I was just looking for the ball, trying to stay on it."

Brad Clontz (6-2) picked up the win in relief for Atlanta, which has won 11 of its last 13 games.

In Colorado, Mark Thompson threw an eight-hitter for his third complete game and Ellis Burks homered and drove in three runs as the Colorado Rockies beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 9-3.

Vinny Castilla and Dante Bichette each added two RBIs for Colorado, which improved the Major League's best home mark to 44-20.

At Florida, Kevin Brown scattered seven hits over eight innings and Kurt Abbott snapped a sixth-inning tie with a two-run double as the Florida Marlins defeated the fired Cincinnati Reds 5-3.

The Marlins won for just



The Atlanta Braves catcher Javy Lopez tags out Chicago Cubs Luis Gonzalez at home plate after Gonzalez tried to score from second off of a Dave Mägåden single in the first inning August 24 at Fulton-County Stadium (Reuters photo)

the third time in nine games, taking advantage of a Reds' team that has not had a day off since August 8th and was playing its fourth game in 43 hours.

In Los Angeles, Tom Candiotti allowed two runs in seven innings and singled home the go-ahead run and Mike Piazza and Todd Hollandsworth drove in two runs apiece as the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the New York Mets 7-5.

Candiotti (8-9) walked one, allowed five hits and struck out a season-high eight batters for Los Angeles, which has won 10

of its last 14 games.

In San Diego, Joey Hamilton allowed two hits over seven innings and Rickey Henderson hit his Major League-record 69th leadoff homer as the San Diego Padres defeated the Philadelphia Phillies 7-1 for their fifth win in six games.

Hamilton (12-7) won his second straight start, allowing just a sixth-inning run and a pair of singles.

In San Francisco, Pedro Martinez allowed two hits in eight innings and David Segui drove in two runs as the Montreal Expos shut out the San Francisco Giants 3-

0 for their third straight win. Martinez (11-7), who last-just 1-1/3 innings in his last start against San Diego five days ago, pitched eight-plus innings, walking four and striking out 10.

In Houston, Orlando Miller's two-run homer with one out in the bottom of the ninth off Todd Stortlemyre gave the Houston Astros a 3-1 win over the St. Louis Cardinals and left the teams in a virtual tie for the lead in the NL Central Division.

Shane Reynolds (16-6) fired a five-hitter, walking one and striking out six.

## Orioles sneak past Angels; Brewers down Indians

BALTIMORE (R) — Rafael Palmeiro's two-out single in the sixth inning scored Roberto Alomar with the go-ahead run as the Baltimore Orioles rallied past the California Angels 5-4 and took over the American League's wild-card berth on Saturday.

The Orioles trailed 4-3 when pinch-hitter Mike Devereaux led off the sixth with a triple against reliever Kyle Abbott (0-1) and scored the tying run on Alomar's single.

After Brady Anderson sacrificed, Palmeiro hit the first pitch into right field for a single, scoring Alomar.

In Boston, former Mariner Darren Bragg's first career grand slam in the sixth inning off reliever Randy Johnson lifted the Boston Red Sox to their fifth win in six games, a 9-5 victory over Seattle.

"Just one of those things. I was just trying to make contact," said Bragg. "The bases were loaded and I had two strikes. I was just trying to put the ball in play. I got the good part of the bat on it and it carried out."

In Cleveland, Kevin Seitzer's two-out single in the top of the 10th brought home David Hulse with the winning run as the Milwaukee Brewers sent the Cleveland Indians to their third straight extra-inning defeat 4-3.

Bob Wickman (5-1), acquired from the New York Yankees on Friday, earned the win in his Milwaukee debut despite allowing the tying run in the eighth inning.

At Minnesota, Marty Cordova and Matt Lawton hit solo homers and Frankie Rodriguez allowed six hits over seven innings

to earn his first win as a starter in a month as the Minnesota Twins held on to beat the Texas Rangers 6-5.

"Yeah, you know it's fun, it's always fun when you've got a chance to go to the ballpark and win a game that's important," said Rodriguez. "Every game should be important, but it's a little more important now."

In New York, Wally Whitehurst allowed two runs over seven innings for his first win in more than two years and Paul O'Neill's three-run double snapped a sixth-inning tie as the New York Yankees held on for a 5-4 victory over the Oakland Athletics.

Whitehurst, promoted from triple-A Columbus on Wednesday, allowed seven hits and struck out one without a walk. It was his first win since defeating

the St. Louis Cardinals on May 28th, 1994 when he was with the San Diego Padres.

In Kansas City, Jose Rosado came within one out of his third complete game and Michael Tucker homered and drove in three runs as the Kansas City Royals broke a six-game losing streak with a 9-2 victory over the Detroit Tigers in a battle of cellar-dwellers.

Rosado (5-3) allowed two runs — one earned — and seven hits over 8-2/3 innings with three walks and six strikeouts. In his last four starts, the 21-year-old left-hander has given up only four earned runs in 29-2/3 innings.

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**VACANCY**  
The American Embassy in Amman has a vacancy for a Worldnet/Audio-Visual Technician to maintain a signal processing control room, operate and repair satellite and audio-visual equipment as well as film/slide projectors, tape recorders and public address systems. Qualified candidates must have good command of English and Arabic, two to three years of responsible experience in electronics, and thorough technical knowledge of and ability to install, operate, repair and maintain such equipment.  
Qualified applicants should submit an application form (available at the Embassy gate) to the Personnel Officer prior to September 8, 1996.

وزارة الأشغال العامة والإسكان  
دائرة العطاءات الحكومية  
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING  
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

**Invitation to Tender (141/96)**  
**The Prequalification of Contractors for the Construction of Al-Adasiya Storage Dam**  
International Contractors in joint venture with:  
a- Jordanian contractors classified by the Government Tenders Directorate (G.T.D.) as first grade in water and sewerage or in roads/bridge and culvert concrete.  
b- Regional contractors.  
willing to participate in the above tender are invited to collect tender documents as follows:  
1- The share of the local contractors shall be at least 50 per cent of the total contract value.  
2- A duly legalised joint venture agreement between all the partners must be lodged with the prequalification documents.  
3- All given information must be correct and accurate, upon pains of responsibility.  
4- The international contractors shall comply with the law of the Jordanian Engineers Association and Jordanian Construction Contractors Association regarding registration.  
5- The deadline set for the purchase of tender documents shall be on Monday, September 2, 1996.  
6- The prequalification proposals shall be submitted at the G.T.D. by no later than Tuesday, September 10, 1996.  
Chairman of the Central Tenders Committee  
Director General of the Government Tenders Directorate  
Eng. Naser Falah Madadhah

<p><b>PHILADELPHIA</b> TEL: 634144</p> <p><b>BABE</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15</p> <p><b>The American President</b> Shows: 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p><b>PLAZA</b> TEL: 688238</p> <p><b>The Arab Cinema Surprise</b> <b>Ahamad Zaki...in</b> <b>Naser 56</b> (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:00</p>	<p><b>CONCORD</b> TEL: 677420</p> <p><b>CONCORD "1"</b> <b>MONKEY TROUBLE</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p><b>CONCORD "2"</b> <b>Ahamad Zaki...in</b> <b>Naser 56</b> (Arabic) Shows: 12:00, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45</p>	<p><b>Amman Theatre &amp; Cinema</b> TEL: 618274 - 618275</p> <p>Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled</p> <p><b>Five-Star Government</b> Starring comedians: <b>Mahmoud Saimeh &amp; Hussein Tubeishat</b> play starts 8:30 p.m</p>	<p><b>Nabil &amp; Hisham's Theatre</b> TEL: 625155</p> <p><b>PRESENTS</b> <b>THE SATIRICAL COMEDY</b> <b>Arab Human Rights</b> At 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155-640155</p>
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## VS IN BRIEF

### Prisoners on hunger strike

(AFP) — Hundreds of prisoners have gone on hunger strike in protest against the new law on the release of prisoners in Israel. The strike is the latest in a series of protests by the prisoners, who are demanding better living conditions and the right to work. The strike is being led by a group of prisoners known as the 'Prisoners' Committee'. They are demanding that the government should release the prisoners who are serving life sentences for political reasons. The strike is being supported by the public, who are demanding that the government should release the prisoners. The strike is being held in several prisons across Israel. The prisoners are demanding that the government should release the prisoners who are serving life sentences for political reasons. The strike is being supported by the public, who are demanding that the government should release the prisoners. The strike is being held in several prisons across Israel.

### Private visit to Morocco

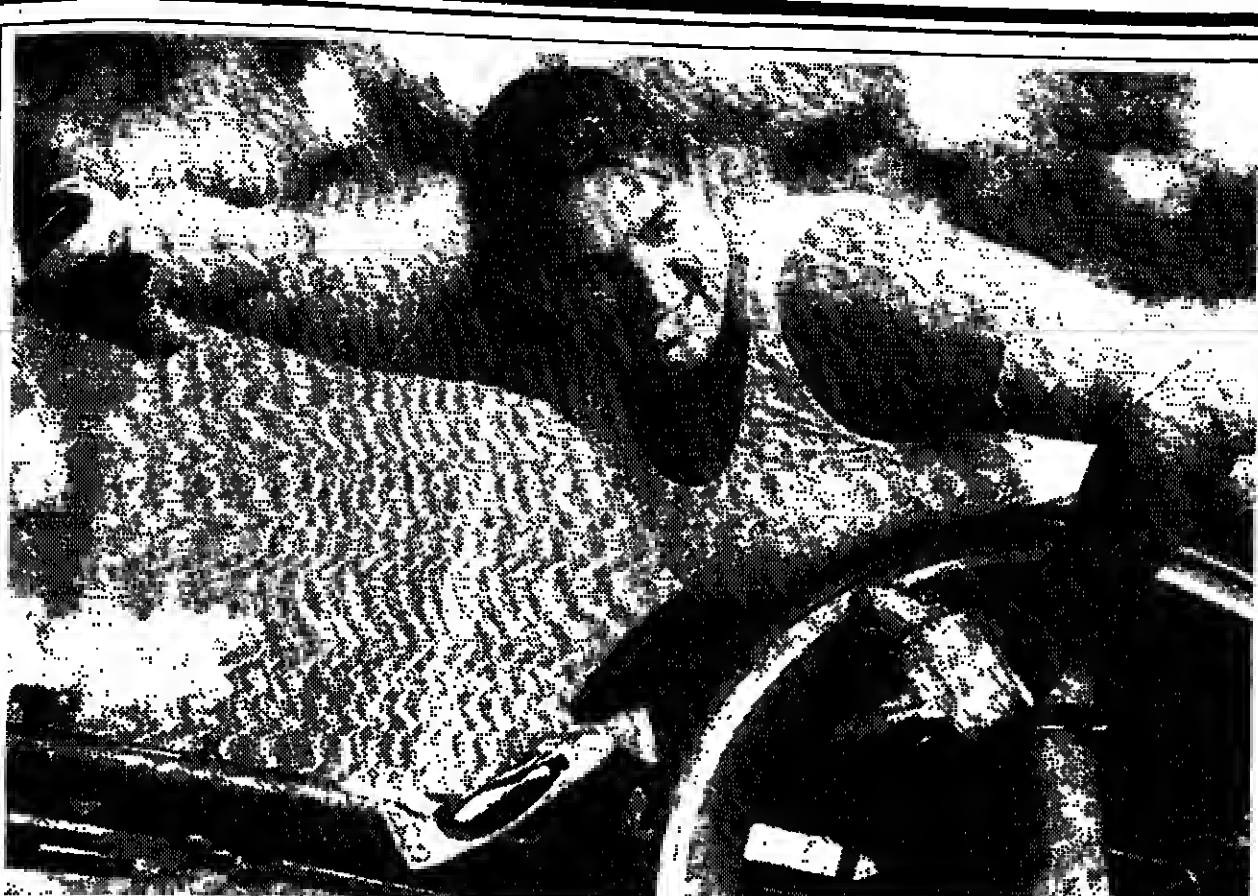
Former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres is scheduled to visit Morocco on Monday. The visit is being described as a 'private' one, but it is expected to be a significant diplomatic move. Peres is expected to meet with Moroccan officials and to discuss the situation in the Middle East. The visit is being seen as a sign of Israeli willingness to engage in dialogue with other countries in the region. Peres is expected to stay in Morocco for a few days before returning to Israel. The visit is being closely watched by the media and the public. It is expected that Peres will have a meeting with King Hassan II of Morocco. The visit is being seen as a sign of Israeli willingness to engage in dialogue with other countries in the region.

### Prime minister to visit China

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is scheduled to visit China on Monday. The visit is being described as a 'private' one, but it is expected to be a significant diplomatic move. Rabin is expected to meet with Chinese officials and to discuss the situation in the Middle East. The visit is being seen as a sign of Israeli willingness to engage in dialogue with other countries in the region. Rabin is expected to stay in China for a few days before returning to Israel. The visit is being closely watched by the media and the public. It is expected that Rabin will have a meeting with Chinese leaders. The visit is being seen as a sign of Israeli willingness to engage in dialogue with other countries in the region.

### Businessmen seek Iraq deal

Israeli businessmen are seeking a deal with Iraq. The deal is expected to be a significant one, as it would involve the sale of Israeli technology to Iraq. The deal is being seen as a sign of Israeli willingness to engage in dialogue with other countries in the region. The deal is expected to be a significant one, as it would involve the sale of Israeli technology to Iraq. The deal is being seen as a sign of Israeli willingness to engage in dialogue with other countries in the region. The deal is expected to be a significant one, as it would involve the sale of Israeli technology to Iraq. The deal is being seen as a sign of Israeli willingness to engage in dialogue with other countries in the region.



Louise Sauvage of Australia pumps her fist as she leaves the track after winning the gold medal in the women's 400m T-53 final at the Paralympics in Atlanta. Sauvage finished with a new Paralympic record of 54.96 and winning her fourth gold medal of the games (Reuters photo)

## Ferreira reaches Canadian Open final

TORONTO (R) — Third-seeded Wayne Ferreira of South Africa outduelled seventh-seeded Todd Martin of the United States 4-6 6-3 7-5 in the semifinals of the \$2 million Canadian Open on Saturday. Ferreira will meet unseeded Todd Woodbridge of Australia in the final. The 43rd-ranked Aussie easily handled an uninspired Marcelo Rios of Chile, the fourth seed, 6-0 6-3 in Saturday's other semifinal. Ferreira, ranked 10th in the world, served for the match at 5-4 in the third set only to have the 13th-ranked Martin save a match point and then win the game when Ferreira hit a forehand long. But the 24-year-old South African immediately broke back and served out the final game at a loss of only one point.

"I thought I played very solid on my serve and I made him play a lot of balls on his, especially when he missed his first serve," Ferreira said. Martin's aggressive hitting and net play dominated the early part of the match, but Ferreira's passing shots, particularly his forehand, picked up and clearly became intimidating for Martin. The tall American actually retreated to the baseline several times after hitting approach shots in the third set. "The reason I lost is that I probably hit a few too many times to his forehand instead of his backhand," Martin said. "It's difficult when three quarters of the court is open not to hit there, and then to still lose the point. When I served for the match at 5-5 (in the third set) I didn't get enough first serves in." Rios, ranked 11th, didn't give Woodbridge much of a match.

The Aussie won the first set in just 24 minutes and the second in 29. Rios did break Woodbridge's serve in the fifth game of the second set to take a 3-2 lead. But when Woodbridge broke back in the next game, the Chilean seemed to lose heart. His listless effort was apparent and soon he was being jeered by the crowd which had been cheering for the flamboyant player earlier in match. Woodbridge was solid but not overpowering. His slice backhand shots seemed to unnervingly the moody 20-year-old Rios. "I have beaten him before reasonably comfortably, and it is pretty obvious he didn't like the ball down low," Woodbridge, 26, said. "Today, he didn't know what to do with it and that frustrated him to the point where he gave up."

## Schumacher wins Belgian GP

SPA-FRANCOCHAMPS, Belgium (AFP) — Michael Schumacher restored Ferrari's battered pride here on Sunday when he won a sensational Belgian Grand Prix.

Jacques Villeneuve in his Williams Renault was second with Mika Hakkinen coming third in a McLaren Mercedes. Britain's Damon Hill, current leader in the race for the drivers' World Championship, finished fifth in the other Williams Renault. Before the race, Hill was 17 points clear of Villeneuve, the only man who can take the title over him but by the end his lead had been reduced to only 13 points with three races left.

But it was a stunning performance by Schumacher, who admitted afterwards

that he nearly pulled out of the race half-way through after he damaged his steering. "I was pushing hard early on, going over the curbs and bent my steering. I was close to stopping the race as I was a bit frightened," said the two-time world champion.

But after being told by the pits that the steering would hold, the German continued flat out to collect his second Grand Prix of the season. Villeneuve, who had closed to within less than a second of Schumacher suddenly backed off in the closing laps. "I was hearing some noises in the engine so I decided to lay back a little," explained the Canadian. For Hill it was a nightmare race that could have cost him the championship.

The Englishman, who started on the front row alongside pole sitter Villeneuve, got a terrible start and quickly found himself in fourth place. Things got worse when Jos Verstappen in the arrows crashed heavily and the pace car came onto the track.

By the time the debris was removed and the race restarted Hill was back in 14th and looking out of the points altogether. But Hill, who is reportedly demanding 10 million pounds for Williams for next season, clawed his way back up to sixth. When David Coulthard spun off and crashed his McLaren Mercedes into the tyre barrier Hill, driving his spare car, gratefully took the vacant spot and with it a much-needed extra point.

## Sanchez to meet Date in final

CARLSBAD, California (R) — Top-seeded Arantxa Sanchez nearly missed her wake up call but recovered in time to gain the final of the \$450,000 Toshiba Classic Saturday.

The feisty Spaniard spotted doubles partner and No. 3 seed Jana Novotna a one-set lead before bouncing the Czech star 1-6 6-2 6-3. Sanchez Vicario will meet No. 4 Kimiko Date, who surprised defending champion Conchita Martinez of Spain 6-2 7-5, in the title match worth \$80,000 to the winner of the final hardcourt tuneup event before next week's U.S. Open in New York.

"Seems like I was still sleeping and then the alarm said, 'OK, hold on a second, wake up.' That's when I woke up," she laughed. "I definitely don't like to play at nine or 10 o'clock. But I fight until the end, and I am lucky to be in the final."

Sanchez Vicario sleepwalked through the first-set drubbing before awakening with her pesky ground game to get past the world's No. 6 ranked player for the fourth time this year without a loss. While Sanchez Vicario was snapping out of her funk, Novotna was falling further into fatigue after playing her second match in 12 hours due to television scheduling and a grueling late night three-set victory over France's Sandrine Testud. Novotna was irritated but refused to blame the poor scheduling as an excuse. "Definitely not a great schedule to play a first match at 10 a.m.," she said. "No matter how fit you are the body needs to recover. If you have less than 12 hours to recover before the next match, it's not enough. That's what basically happened to me. I started really well, got tired



Japan's Kimiko Date

and could never get out of it. "I understand television has its needs and they want to have certain players on live," she said. "It happens and as a top player you have to be able to deal with everything. That's what I am and I have no complaints about it."

"Arantxa is a great athlete. She can run down so many balls and that makes it really difficult. Against other players a point would be over. But she still can get to the point and give you the high ball back. You have to start all over again. So it's mentally difficult to play her because she can last a long time and she's such a good runner." The deciding third set was levelled until Sanchez Vicario slammed an overhead winner for a break and a 4-3 lead. At 5-3 she broke again to claim the

had to fight and be able to come with good shots to win."

Date's upset of the third ranked Martinez dashed the hopes of an all-Spanish final.

"She was definitely the better player today," said Martinez, the 1994 Wimbledon champion. "I was on the defensive all the time. I wanted to attack. I tried to be very aggressive, but I missed a lot of forehands and that's my strength."

Date sailed through the first set taking the last three games against the error-prone Spaniard during the 77-minute sweep.

Martinez offered a tougher challenge in the next set, taking a 5-4 lead. Date held and broke for 6-5 before holding at love for the victory.

"When Conchita came back to 4-4, I was a little uptight," said Date, ranked No. 9 in the world. But I felt I was in good form and could keep myself from going to pieces."

"I had my chances in the second set, but I played badly at 5-4," said Martinez, who fell to 2-6 lifetime against Date.

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING  
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

## Invitation to Tender Central Tender #139/96: Study, Design and Preparation of Tender Documents for the Construction of a New Industrial Jetty at Wadi Two in Aqaba

International consultants specialised in the design of ports in association with local consultants qualified by the Government Tenders Directorate (G.T.D.) as Grade A in buildings or Grade A in roads are invited to collect tender documents as follows:

- 1- Scope of work: Study, design and preparation of tender documents for the construction of a new industrial jetty consisting of two berths with all related facilities.
- 2- Proposals with reservation to the tender conditions shall be disqualified.
- 3- The tenderers are to fill in the unit prices in words in addition to numbers.
- 4- The share of the local consultant shall be 20 per cent of the works value. His scope of work and manpower shall be clearly described in the technical proposal. The tenderers are to submit an association agreement duly legalised by a notary public whereby the international consultant shall be the leader of the association. This agreement shall be submitted with the technical proposal. The tenderer shall submit a written pledge of commitment to the effect upon purchase of tender documents.
- 5- Tender documents are available at the G.T.D., P.O. Box 1220, Tel.: 606757, Fax: 606751 for a non-refundable fee of JD(100) per set.
- 6- The tenders shall be submitted in sealed envelopes as follows:
  - a. The first envelope contains the technical proposal and bears the phrase "Technical proposal," clearly written.
  - b. The second envelope contains the financial proposal and bears the phrase "Financial proposal," clearly written.
  - c. The third envelope contains both the above mentioned envelopes.
- 7- The tenderer shall write clearly on the envelope his name and address and the tender name and number.
- 8- The technical proposals shall first be opened and evaluated. The financial proposals of disqualified bidders shall be returned unopened to them.
- 9- Tender documents can be procured by:
  - a. The international consultant via a representative with written authorisation.
  - b. The local consultant permitted to participate in the tender for and on behalf of the international consultant with whom he wishes to form an association.
- 8- A bid bond as per form B-3, of JD(4,000) shall be submitted along with the technical proposal.
- 9- The international consultant shall comply with the law of the Jordanian Engineers Association concerning registration.
- 10- The last date set for the purchase of tender documents is September 7, 1996.
- 11- A site visit will commence from the Port Corporation in Aqaba at 0900 hours on September 9, 1996. The deadline for inquiries regarding the tender shall be on September 12, 1996.
- 12- Bids are to be submitted to the G.T.D. not later than 1300 hours on September 28, 1996.

Chairman of the Central Tenders Committee  
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# Israel deploys mobile homes in settlements

*Palestinians angrily denounce move as aimed at creating facts that will affect peace negotiations*

OFRA, occupied West Bank (AFP) — Israel began installing mobile homes in two West Bank settlements on Sunday in the first concrete move to expand the Jewish colonies since 1992, sparking angry condemnation from Palestinian officials.

"The defence ministry has begun implementing its decision to dispatch 300 mobile homes to the settlements," said Shlomo Dror, spokesman for the coordinator of Israeli activities in the Palestinian territories.

He said the trailers would "serve mostly for educational and administrative purposes" and not for housing.

Officials with the Council of Jewish Settlements in the West Bank said six of the mobile trailers were set up Sunday at Ofra, near Ramallah in the central West Bank, and eight in Bet Hagai outside Hebron in the south.

They were the first authorised structures put up in the Jewish settlements since the previous Labour government froze most construction in Jewish colonies inside the Palestinian territories in 1992.

The right-wing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Aug. 2 that it was lifting the restrictions on expanding the settlements, which house some 140,000 Jews amid the territories' two million Palestinian residents.

So far the expansion has been limited to the plans to install 300 mobile homes to serve as classrooms and offices, but settlers have demanded permission

to build tens of thousands of new housing units. The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) reacted with outrage to the move, saying it violated the Oslo peace accords under which the future of Jewish settlements was to be decided in negotiations on a final peace settlement for Palestinian lands.

Senior Palestinian officials were equally furious when questioned about the trailers installed Sunday at Ofra and Bet Hagai.

"My reaction is that of indignation and anxiety that this government is just procrastinating to try to create facts on the ground that will effect throughout the peace process," said Nabil Shaath, the official in charge of international relations in the PNA.

Hanan Ashrawi, the PNA minister of higher education, warned that Palestinians were going to react on the ground to the new "people concerned are going to protect their land," she said.

"These mobile units are not just temporary structures, they are in a way a preparation for further expansion, for increased settlement activities and as such they violate any possibility of a genuine peace in the future."

The Palestinian National Authority cabinet and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee decided at a meeting in Gaza City on Saturday night to step up support for popular resistance to settlement activity by rejecting Israeli land confiscation moves, notably to build new roads to settlements.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Oman's minister visits S. Africa

MUSCAT (AFP) — Oman's Foreign Minister Yusuf Ben Alawi Ben Abdallah left Muscat Sunday for South Africa to discuss boosting economic cooperation among Indian Ocean nations, officials said. Oman is promoting the project which is scheduled to be launched when Oman, India, South Africa, Mauritius, Kenya, Singapore, Australia, Mozambique and several other countries meet in Mauritius next month. Oman, a non-OPEC oil producer which also has large gas reserves, said there are prospects for cooperation between these countries as some offer competent and cheap labour and others provide natural resources. Mr. Alawi is to visit Mozambique after South Africa.

### 24 dead in Turkey clashes

ANKARA (AFP) — Twenty-four Turkish troops and Kurds have died in clashes between government troops and rebels in southeast Turkey, Anatolia news agency reported Sunday, citing an official communiqué. Fourteen Kurdish separatists of the banned Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) were killed Saturday by government troops in the Semdinli region, and two pro-government Kurdish militiamen and four government troops also died in the clashes. Four other PKK rebels were killed in the Van and Bingöl regions. The Kurdish uprising in eastern Turkey has claimed more than 22,000 lives among the separatists, government troops and civilians since it began in 1984.

### Iran arrests 'counter-revolutionaries'

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian intelligence services have arrested the members of a "counter-revolutionary" group preparing to bomb public buildings in northern Iran, the Akbar newspaper reported Sunday. An unidentified intelligence official was cited by the newspaper as saying those arrested belonged to Kaveh, a group named from a character in the Shahnamah, or Book of the Kings, of Ferdousi, one of the greatest poets of ancient Persia. "The members of this group recently distributed leaflets in cities in Mazandaran province" on the Caspian Sea, calling for "the people to revolt," an Iranian official said. He said the group planned to bomb banks and other public buildings, the newspaper reported. The intelligence services regularly arrest people accused of spying and of "counter-revolutionary" activities in Iran.

### 15 bombs placed at foot of Istanbul bridge

ISTANBUL (AFP) — Police said Sunday they had discovered and defused 14 bombs placed at the foot of the Unkapani bridge linking Istanbul across the Golden Horn after another device went off causing minor damage. In a narrow escape, a technical fault caused one bomb to go off first in the early hours, scuttling plans for all the explosives linked by a timing device to go off simultaneously. The blast caused by six kilograms of dynamite would have caused major damage and led to casualties among the people travelling across the bridge in vehicles, police added.

### U.S. human rights activist arrested in Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — An American activist working for Human Rights Watch in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has been arrested by the Israeli authorities, government press spokesman Moshe Fogel said Sunday. "Beshar Tariyeh was arrested for questioning last Monday at his parents house in Majd Al-Shams, the village where he was born in the Golan Heights," the plateau seized from Syria in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, Fogel told AFP. He did not say whether Tariyeh, arrested three days before he was due to return to the United States, had been charged with any offence. Mr. Tariyeh started working for the U.S. human rights organisation in the occupied territories on his arrival in Israel in June, and continued through to mid-July when he went to his parents' Golan home to help with the apple harvest. Majd Al Shams is the largest of four towns in the Golan where some 17,000 Druze, nearly all loyal to Damascus, continue to live.

### Pakistani robber beheaded in Mecca

RIYADH (AP) — A Pakistani man convicted of theft and running a gang of outlaws was publicly beheaded Sunday in the holy city of Mecca, an interior ministry statement said. It said Shabeer Ahmed Mohammed Jaleel was the mastermind of a gang that broke into houses and robbed them. The statement said an unspecified number of gang members were also arrested and sentenced to whippings. It did not say whether the outlaws lived in Mecca, Islam's holiest city. Jaleel's execution raised the number of people beheaded in the desert kingdom this year to 30.

## Arafat orders release of 17 militants

GAZA CITY (AFP) —

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has ordered 17 militants freed from West Bank prisons, pursuing a policy of gradually releasing activists jailed after a spate of suicide bombings in Israel six months ago, a Palestinian newspaper reported Sunday.

The daily Al-Ayyam, considered close to Arafat's Palestinian Authority, said the 17 detainees were members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the Islamic Jihad.

They were being held in the northern town of Jenin. The Palestinian Authority Friday released a senior Hamas leader, Sheikh Hassan Yusuf, who had been held for six months in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

It also freed Mohammad Al Hindi, a top official in the Islamic Jihad from the Gaza Strip.

Hamas and the Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for four suicide bombings in late February and March which killed 58 people plus the bombers and dealt a crippling blow to the peace process with Israel.

The Palestinian Authority subsequently arrested nearly 900 militants in territories under its control in Gaza and the West Bank, while Israel arrested hundreds more.

The Palestinians are believed to still be holding about 300 of the militants and Attorney General Khaled Al-Kidra has said those who have no evidence of wrongdoing against them will be released.

The right-wing Israeli government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the other hand has insisted the Palestinians maintain a hard line with the Islamic opponents of peace with Israel as a main condition for pursuing the autonomy process.

A new condition that Mr. Netanyahu attached recently was the closure of all offices linked to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in Arab East Jerusalem.

Israel Radio and Palestinian officials said Sunday that the PNA closed down two of the offices in a bid to meet the condition.

Mr. Netanyahu has been quoted as saying he wanted to resume the peace negotiations with the Palestinians "very soon."



A voter gestures with his walking stick as he casts his ballot in the northern port of Tripoli in the second round of parliamentary elections on Sunday (Reuters photo)

## Candidates complain of voting irregularities in north Lebanon

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (AFP)

Several candidates, including former ministers, filed complaints about voting irregularities several hours after legislative elections opened Sunday in northern Lebanon.

Former ministers Bourros Harb and Mikhail Daher, both Christians, and outgoing Muslim Deputy Assad Harnoush said that lists of voters published by the election office differed from the ones they received.

They added that most of the lists were the same as the ones used in the 1992 legislative elections.

Between 1992 and 1996 tens of thousands of people residing in Lebanon for years received Lebanese citizenship. Nearly 10,000 of these new citizens live in northern Lebanon.

Witnesses said the fact voter registration was being done by hand, not computer, together with a lack of voting registration cards was causing chaos at voting booths.

One voter, Boutros Yunes, 56, could not vote because his date of birth was listed

as 1840. "Dead people continue to vote," candidate Mosbah Ahdab said.

A Muslim candidate, Fayssal Malawi, told journalists that he could not vote either because his name was not on the list even though his candidacy had been approved by the Interior Ministry.

Being a registered voter is a precondition for running for office.

A number of witnesses said that the amount of errors on the voter lists had taken on worrying proportions.

Such irregularities also appeared in the first phase of legislative elections on Aug. 18 in the Christian stronghold of Mount Lebanon, which took place just three days after a new electoral law was hastily passed.

The elections are being held region by region on five successive Sundays.

The new law carved Mount Lebanon into six voting districts, diluting its anti-Syrian vote.

Five main groups are con-

testing in northern Lebanon. The apparent front-running coalition is led by former Prime Minister Omar Karami, a Sunni Muslim.

Former minister Suleiman Franjiyeh, a pro-Syrian Christian, and billionaire businessman Issam Fares, a Greek Orthodox Christian.

Although they oppose pro-Syrian Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, they are allied with candidates ideologically close to Syria, such as those from the Lebanese branch of the Baath Party, the ruling party in Syria, and those from the Syrian National Social Party.

The parliamentary seats are divided along religious lines. North Lebanon elects 28 members of parliament of whom 11 must be Sunni Muslim, two Alawite, a sect in power in Syria, nine Christian Maronite and six Greek orthodox.

Nationwide, there are 1,320 candidates running for the parliament's 128 seats.

Elections will be held Sept. 1 in Beirut, Sept. 8 in South Lebanon and Sept. 15 in the Bekaa Valley.

## Husseini visits Syria to discuss Jerusalem, peace

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Faisal Hussein was due to arrive here late Sunday to discuss with Syrian and Palestinian officials recent developments in the Middle East peace process.

A Palestinian official said Mr. Hussein, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee member and responsible for Jerusalem affairs, would discuss with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa Israel's "destruction and Judaisation measures of Jerusalem as a severe blow to the peace process."

Anwar Abdul Hadi, information consultant for PLO foreign affairs chief Farouk Kaddoumi, accused Israel of putting obstacles before the peace, saying that could destroy the whole process.

He said Mr. Hussein's talks would cover the policy of Israel's ruling Likud Party which he warned would lead to the "collapse of the whole peace process if (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu does not adhere to the land-for-peace principle, especially on the Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian tracks."

Husseini will also exchange views with Khaled Al Fahoum, head of the Palestinian National Salvation Front, over the Palestinian situation following the election of Netanyahu's government which opposes the minimum conditions for peace, Mr. Abdul Hadi said.

Mr. Hussein would also discuss with Mr. Sharaa how to coordinate positions in preparation for the Jerusalem Committee meeting to be held in Morocco next month.

The Palestinian National Authority's (PNA) official television said Mr. Hussein was heading a delegation of Palestinians from Jerusalem and the visit would last several days.

Mr. Hussein's visit to Damascus marks another step in a recent rapprochement between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. Mr. Arafat visited Damascus in July, followed by Palestinian Agriculture Minister Abdul Jawad Saleh, who travelled to Syria early this month.

## Egyptian police arrest militants on arrival from Syria, Lebanon

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian authorities arrested 43 militants from the armed militant group Jihad in July as they arrived in the country from Syria and Lebanon, police sources said Sunday.

The militants, who had been living in camps in Pakistan after fighting with the Afghan Mujahideen against the Soviet army in the 1980s, "infiltrated into Syria and Lebanon after the Pakistani government's decision to expel foreign nationals," said the source. The 43 Jihad members then travelled to Egypt where they were arrested in Cairo, Giza and the northern Nile Delta region, he added.

"They had arrived in Egypt to carry out attacks planned after they had secretly infiltrated into Syria and Lebanon," said the source, adding that the Lebanese and Syrian authorities knew nothing of the scheme.

He denied press reports published in July saying Syria was planning to extradite a group of Egyptian militants to Cairo.

He said the militants had confessed to police prosecutors that Jihad was behind the bombing of the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad in November last year which killed 17 people. The attack was claimed at the time by three groups: Jihad, Egypt's largest armed group the Gamaa Islamiyah, and the previously unknown International Justice Group.



## Queen 'plans to vacate' Buckingham Palace

LONDON (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth plans to vacate Buckingham Palace as part of her programme to update and improve the 1,000-year-old monarchy, a British newspaper said. The People, a popular tabloid weekly, said the queen and other members of the royal family would withdraw gradually from the imposing palace in the heart of London over the next few years. The building would become a year-round tourist attraction and office block for royal staff. A spokeswoman for Buckingham Palace dismissed the report. "It is pure speculation. We've not gone into any of the details of what has been outlined in the media during the week." Last week, British newspapers said giving up state subsidies, allowing the monarch to marry a Roman Catholic and changing the laws of succession to allow the oldest child — even if a girl — to take the throne, were among the options being considered.

## Jackson won't be playing it again in Casablanca

CASABLANCA, Morocco (R) — American pop star Michael Jackson's Sept. 27 concert has been cancelled after authorities refused to give permission for it, the private Moroccan Television Channel 2M said. "Moroccan authorities did not give the green light for Michael Jackson's show but gave no explanation either," the Casablanca-based station said in its evening news bulletin. Jackson visited the city last month and said he wanted to perform there because it reminded him of the Hollywood movie Casablanca. A concert organiser said fears of large young crowds turning up could have led authorities to refuse the show.

## Surfboards become hot collectables

WASHINGTON (R) — Vintage surfboards became hot collectables in the late 1980s, their value rising as baby boomers paid up for a piece of lost youth and museum curators eyed their beauty and cultural symbolism. Boards in top condition from around 1967 and earlier rose from garage sale giveaway prices to thousands of dollars today, especially those ridden by champions or shaped by craftsmen. The Malibu Perpetual Surfboard, made of redwood in 1948 in California, was retrieved from a wood pile in 1979 but is unavailable today at any price. Prices accelerated quickly for about five years but levelled off around 1994, though the rarest boards and ones in mint condition continue to appreciate.

## British police get green light to use CS sprays

LONDON (AFP) — Home Secretary Michael Howard Wednesday authorised British police to use incapacitating CS spray for self-defence amid complaints by civil rights groups over long-term health risks from the sprays. The go-ahead followed six-month trials of the gas in 16 pilot areas around Britain. The gas temporarily disables an assailant by causing uncontrollable streaming of eyes and nose, eyelid spasms and breathing difficulties. Howard called CS gas "a dramatic improvement in police protective equipment." But John Wadsworth, director of the civil rights group Liberty, said, "we haven't established the long-term effects of the use of CS gas spray."

Sudanese plane hijacked to Cyprus

U.S. resident held in Israel